高口里純

ななひかり 6

SATOSUMI TAKAGUCHI PRESENTS
CHARA COMICS

Chara COMICS

ななひかり

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Hikaru receives a huge shock when stepbrother Watari drops a bombshell about Shimogura: "I've just been seduced by him." Shimogura refuses to confirm or deny the allegation, yet Hikaru is still irresistibly attracted to him. Is it possible that the kind, dependable big brother is guilty of sexually assaulting the handsome attorney?!

Meanwhile, the truth surrounding the mystery of the secret sons is about to be revealed! What is the shameful past Hikaru's father and the other mothers have kept hidden all these years?

CHARA COMICS

6

高口里純

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NANAHIKARI

Cast of characters

Family name written first where known

NANAMURA Hikaru
Age 17. Main character. He is on a mission to find his eight half-brothers in order to claim his inheritance.

SHIMOGURA Hirone
Age 31. Attorney and one of Mizuho Kazumitsu's former lovers.

Nazuna
Hikaru's talkative and loyal girlfriend

ONE Takako
Hikaru's mother and Mizuho Kazumitsu's ex wife. A former concert pianist.

MIZUHO Kazumitsu
A famous actor, and Hikaru's dead father. In his will, he asks Hikaru to find his eight half-brothers.

ASHINUMA Ushio
An older student (sempai) at Hikaru's high school. His uncle was a talented conductor and friend of Mizuho Kazumitsu

KAMAHORI Yoriko
Celebrity reporter investigating the rumors about Mizuho Kazumitsu's secret sons

ASHINUMA Nozomi
Ashinuma Ushio's dead uncle. A talented orchestral conductor and close friend of Mizuho Kazumitsu.

Hikaru's half-brothers so far

SASAYA Kei
Age 3. His mother later reveals he is not Mizuho Kazumitsu's biological son

OKINO Shinobu
Age 13. A theater actor who specializes in playing female roles. His stepfather is acquainted with Hikaru's mother

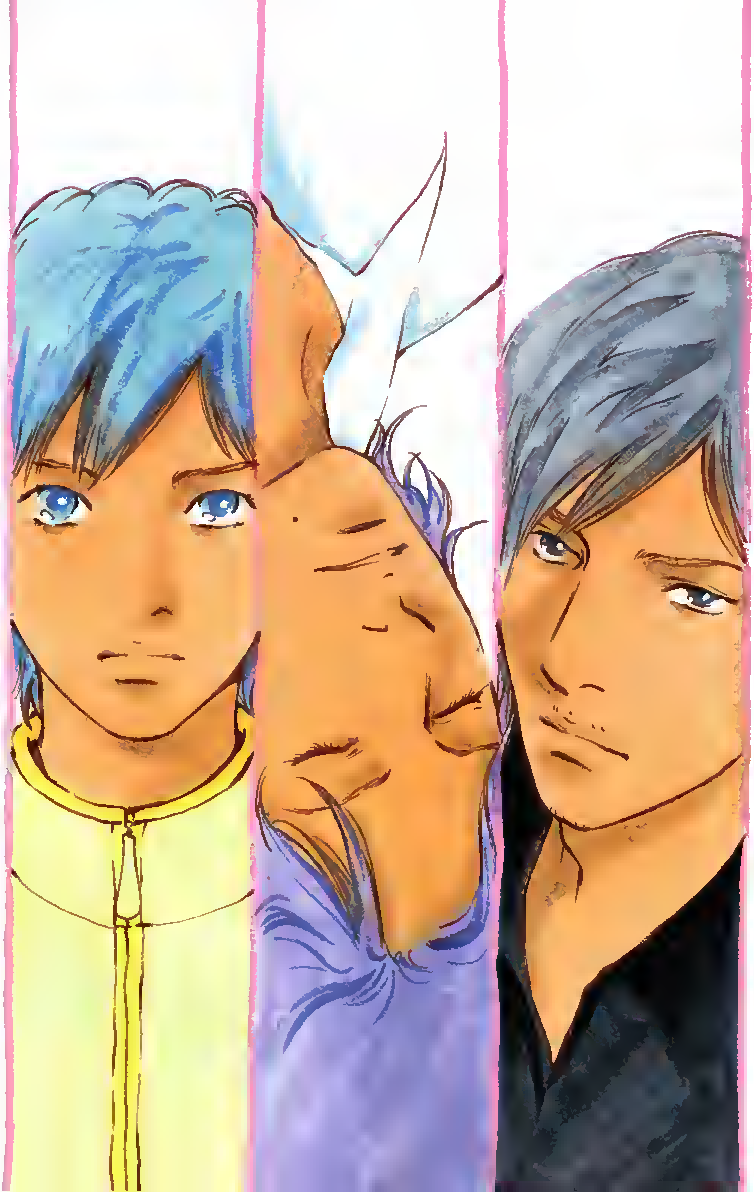
UCHI Junichi
Age 17. A music student who plays the violin. He knows about Mizuho's will and the names of the other brothers.

SATOU Yuu
Age 17. The informant who has been leaking details about Mizuho's sons to reporter Kamahori and other media outlets.

KUNIKAKE Yuuma
Age 17. Amateur shogi player. His younger sister, Chika, has a crush on him.

SUETSUGU Watari
Age 27. A professional chef who has worked abroad in France. His mother has just died of a terminal illness

YUZUKI Shion
Age 17. A music student at the same school as Junichi. Attorney Shimogura gives him regular payments from Mizuho's estate to make ends meet



ななひかり
NANAHIKARI

contact.21

HELLO, WATARI-SAN?
YOUR VOICE SOUNDS A BIT STRANGE
ARE YOU WITH SOMEONE ELSE RIGHT NOW?
!
SHOVE
HOW PERCEPTIVE OF YOU.
CRASH

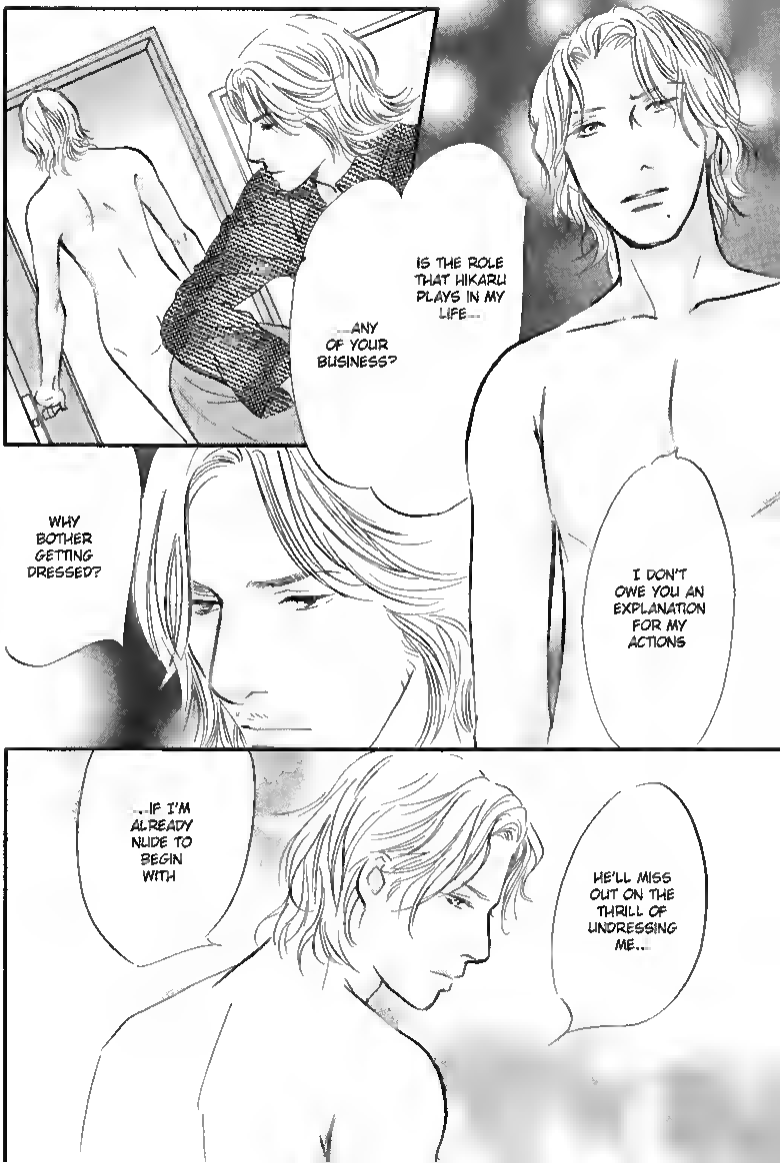
Watari-san?
Hello?
Are you there?
Hikaru?!

SHIMOGURA-SAN'S PLACE?
WHAT?
I'M AT THE ATTORNEY'S PLACE RIGHT NOW.
We've been discussing the terms of the will
OH... I SEE
He's with Shimogura-san...
So what can I do for you? Has something come up?
I'm not sure what to do
Um... Maybe I should call back later

...SO WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER, HIKARU?
Actually, I'm going to be here for a while...
I DON'T WANT HIM HERE!
crash
!?

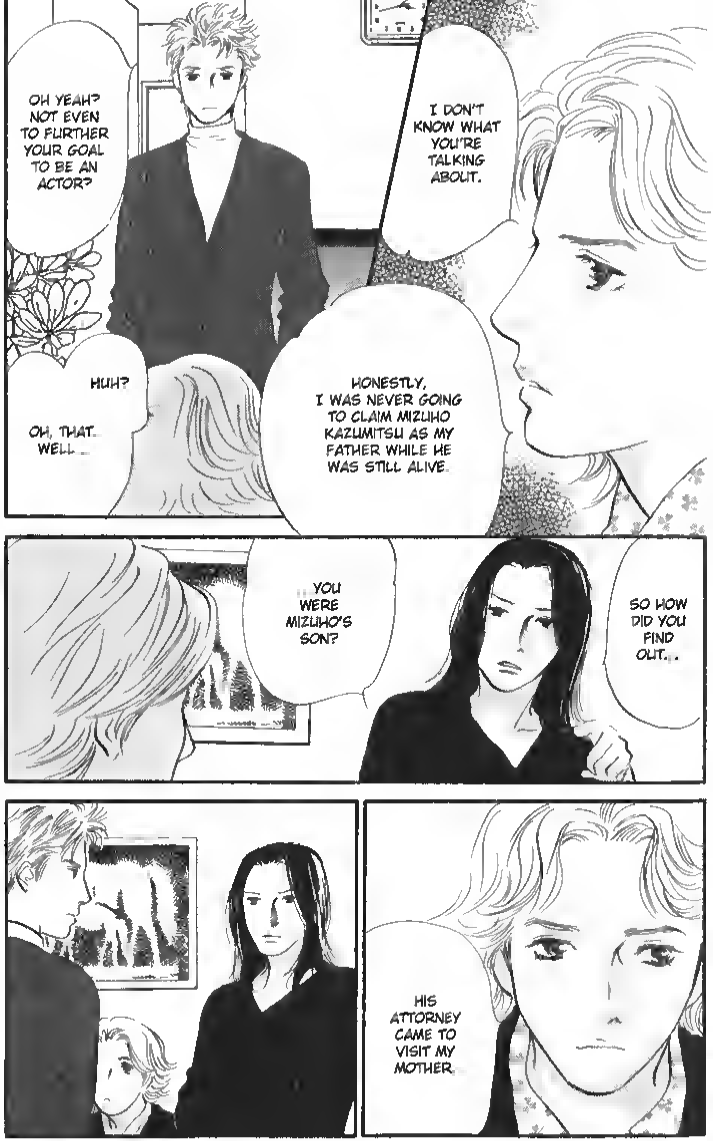
Oh, no!

HUFF
HUFF
bounce
WHY GO TO SO MUCH TROUBLE TO BRING A BUNCH OF RANDOM KIDS TOGETHER?
HAS THIS BECOME YOUR MISSION IN LIFE OR SOMETHING?
WHAT A JOKE.


IS THE ROLE THAT HIKARU PLAYS IN MY LIFE...
...ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS?
I DON'T OWE YOU AN EXPLANATION FOR MY ACTIONS
WHY BOTHER GETTING DRESSED?
HE'LL MISS OUT ON THE THRILL OF UNDRESSING ME...
...IF I'M ALREADY NUDE TO BEGIN WITH

YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING, DON'T YOU?
I HOPE YOU CAN BE AS GLIB AND FLIPPANT ABOUT THIS WHEN HIKARU SHOWS UP
WHATEVER I SAY TO HIM WILL END UP SOUNDING AS EMPTY AS A LIE
WHETHER HE'S AN ADULT OR NOT, HE'LL FIGURE OUT THE TRUTH SOON ENOUGH

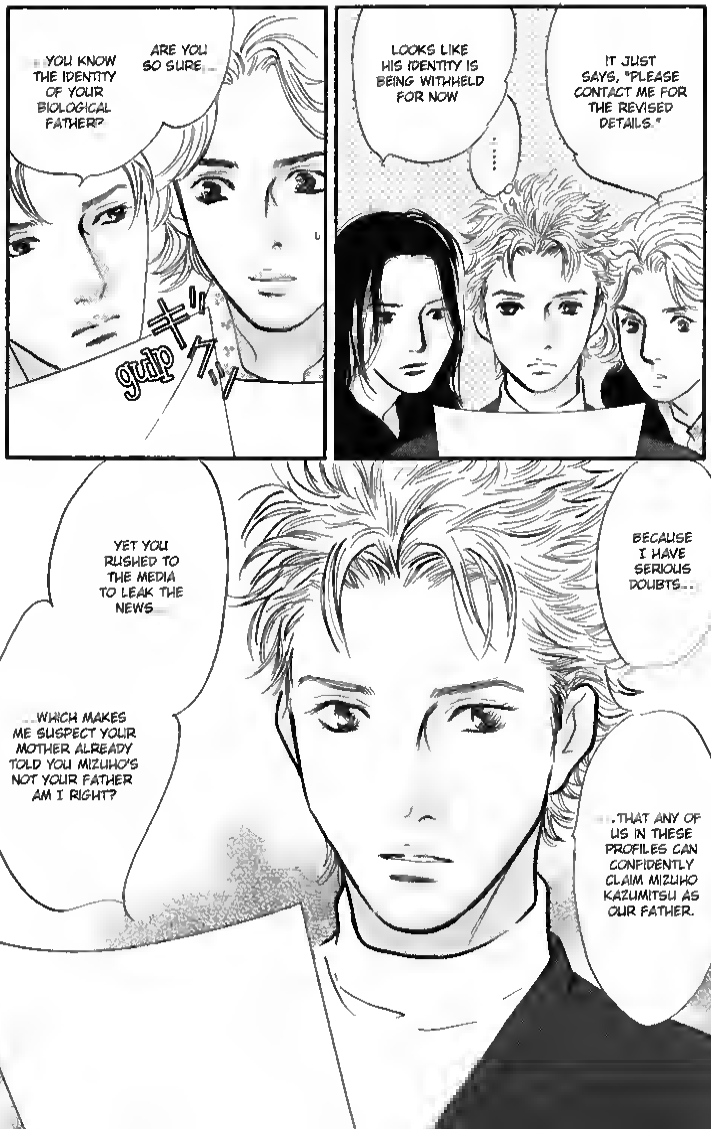
WHY DID YOU LEAK DETAILS ABOUT US TO THE MEDIA?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE PLAYING AT..
.. BUT IT WAS NEVER JUST ABOUT US, WAS IT?
I'M CERTAIN YOU'VE GOT SOME ULTERIOR MOTIVE.


OH YEAH? NOT EVEN TO FURTHER YOUR GOAL TO BE AN ACTOR?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
HUH?
OH, THAT. WELL...
HONESTLY, I WAS NEVER GOING TO CLAIM MIZUHO KAZUMITSU AS MY FATHER WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE.
...YOU WERE MIZUHO'S SON?
SO HOW DID YOU FIND OUT...
HIS ATTORNEY CAME TO VISIT MY MOTHER.

JUST LIKE ME
ACCORDING TO THIS, YOU LIVE AT HOME WITH BOTH YOUR PARENTS, RIGHT?
I GUESS HE WAS KEEPING IT UNDER WRAPS
SAME HERE
BUT HE NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT MIZUHO HAVING OTHER SONS HIDDEN AWAY.
PROFILES ON ALL OF MIZUHO'S ILLEGITIMATE SONS. THE ATTORNEY GAVE THEM TO HIKARU.
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL.
HEY! WHAT'S THAT?
DON'T START GIVING HIM IDEAS!
HUH?
REALLY? ALL OF THEM?

SEVEN PROFILES, HUH?
PHEW! SO I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THERE BEING SEVEN OF US!
WAIT A SEC DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ALL OF THEM?
WE BETTER CHANGE THE SUBJECT
IN HOSPITAL? I DON'T REMEMBER THAT
DON'T ACT DUMB! WE MET BEFORE IN HOSPITAL!
WHAT?! YOU'RE LYING!
NO, I'M SERIOUS
LOOK, GUYS!
HANG ON!
.....
I thought I said seven!
YOU MEAN YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ME?
YOU SEE, I HAD TO EAVESDROP OUTSIDE WHILE THE ATTORNEY WAS TALKING TO MY MOTHER

ONE OF THEM IS A THREE YEAR OLD KID,
BUT HIKARU TOLD ME HE TURNED OUT NOT TO BE MIZUHO'S BIOLOGICAL SON
WHICH MEANS...
...THERE MUST BE ONE MORE PROFILE LYING AROUND
EVERYONE LOOK FOR IT!
FOUND IT!


YOU KNOW THE IDENTITY OF YOUR BIOLOGICAL FATHER?
ARE YOU SO SURE...
gulp
LOOKS LIKE HIS IDENTITY IS BEING WITHHELD FOR NOW
.....
IT JUST SAYS, "PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR THE REVISED DETAILS."
YET YOU RUSHED TO THE MEDIA TO LEAK THE NEWS...
...WHICH MAKES ME SUSPECT YOUR MOTHER ALREADY TOLD YOU MIZUHO'S NOT YOUR FATHER AM I RIGHT?
BECAUSE I HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS...
...THAT ANY OF US IN THESE PROFILES CAN CONFIDENTLY CLAIM MIZUHO KAZUMITSU AS OUR FATHER.

THAT'S WHY YOU STARTED WEAVING YOUR WEB OF LIES
キク
gulp
NOW I KNOW I'M RIGHT
N-NO.
HAD ANY INTEREST IN BEING AN ACTOR
YOU NEVER..
キ'ノ
gulp
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO COME CLEAN. HUH?
Who the hell is this guy?!
How does he know?!

ピンポーン
ding dong
HIKARU.

SHIMOGURA-SAN...
COME IN
WATARI-SAN...
HIS MOTHER HAS JUST PASSED AWAY.

YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD ME!
I'VE BEEN BUSY WITH OTHER STUFF
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
EH?
REALLY?
WATARI-SAN!
I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
SEE YOU LATER.
WELL, SHIMOGURA-SAN
HIKARU,
SUETSUGU-SAN DIDN'T WANT TO WORRY YOU UNNECESSARILY.

WAIT UP!
BUT...
I'VE JUST...
...BEEN SEDUCED...
...BY HIM

KEEP IN TOUCH.
!?
I GUESS YOU REALIZED WHAT WAS GOING ON DURING OUR PHONE CALL.
LIKE I SAID, YOU'VE VERY PERCEPTIVE.
I don't believe it!
How could he?!

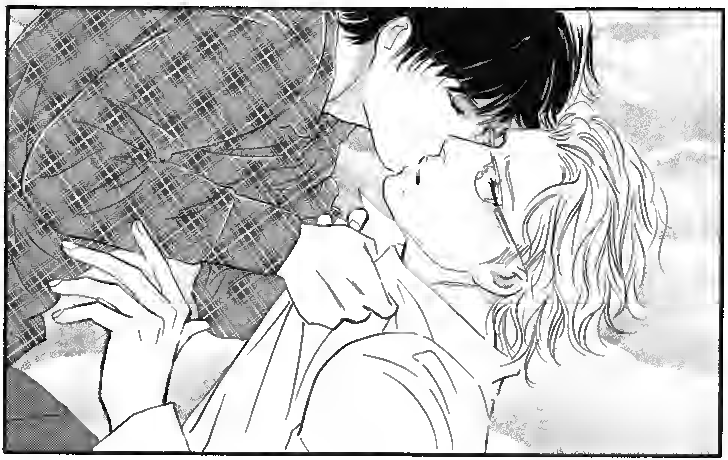
SHUT THE DOOR
キィ
creak
clack
ガーン
WHAT WAS WATARI-SAN.
—DOING HERE?
DIDN'T HE TELL YOU?

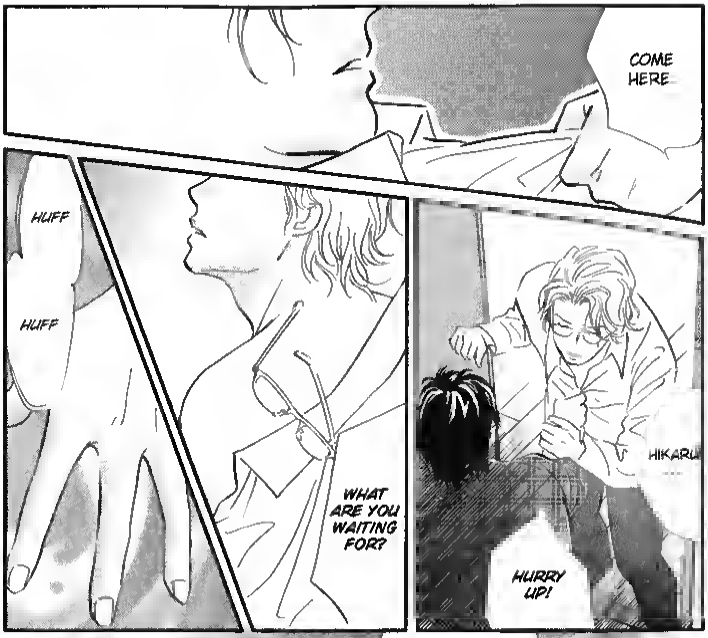
WAS WATARI-SAN...
THE MAN IN THE VIDEO?
WE WERE MERELY DISCUSSING THE TERMS OF THE WILL
IT WAS WATARI-SAN, WASN'T IT?
NO.
NO.

LOOK ME IN THE EYE AND SAY IT!
HIKARU...
THUD

THUD
HIKARU?

HOW LONG DO YOU WANT ME TO REMAIN AN IGNORANT KID?
HOW LONG?
FOREVER?




COME HERE...
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
HIKARU
HURRY UP!

SLOW DOWN, HIKARU.
...I'LL DO WHAT I WANT.
THIS TIME..
I'LL DO WHATEVER I WANT.

Is this my first time...
..or have I endured this before..
...the neverending torment..
..of a boy's exquisite touch?

Hikaru is probably aware of this...
...which means I've got no choice but to accept my punishment
If this hell continues any longer, it will surely drive me insane
Perhaps this...
is what I deserve for my sins

I do it
for love.

WATARI-SAN...
WHO KNOWS
THERE WAS NO ONE BY HER SIDE AT THE END
YOUR MOTHER DIDN'T SUFFER, DID SHE?
WHO DO YOU FEEL MORE SORRY FOR, HIKARU?
SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO'S GOT NO FAMILY LEFT...
...OR THAT TWO-TIMING ATTORNEY WHO'LL NEVER CHANGE HIS WAYS?

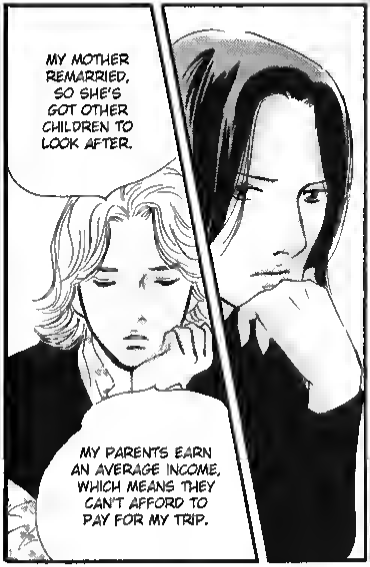
WHY WOULD TWO GROWN MEN...
...CARE HOW I FEEL?
HIKARU,
...YOU SHOULDN'T UNDERESTIMATE YOURSELF SO MUCH.
HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED HOW THE TWO OF US, BOTH GROWN MEN ..
...HAVE BEEN BATTLING EACH OTHER TO WIN YOUR AFFECTION, NO MATTER HOW SMALL?

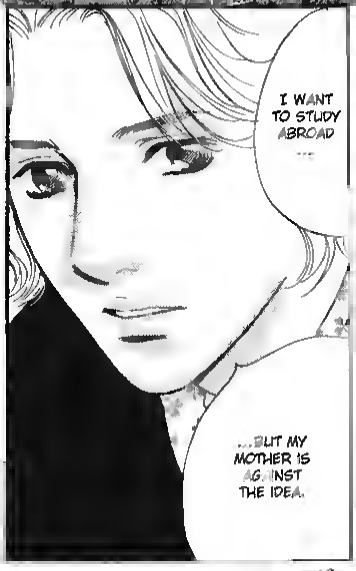
I HAD NO IDEA...
...BECAUSE MY MIND DOESN'T WORK IN SUCH A TWISTED WAY
WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU THINKING WHEN YOU SLEPT WITH HIM?
YOUR ACTIONS MAKE NO SENSE EVEN NOW.
I COULD NEVER USE SEX AS SOME KIND OF BARGAINING TOOL TO GET WHAT I WANT
...AND I'D BE TOO PHYSICALLY REVOLTED TO GO THROUGH WITH IT
THE IDEA WOULD NEVER EVEN ENTER MY HEAD...

HIKARU...
IF YOU WANTED SOMETHING FROM ME, ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK!
I WOULD'VE GIVEN YOU THE SHIRT OFF MY BACK IF I COULD!
HIKARU!
HIKARU!!
WAIT UP!

MONEY?
WHAT DO YOU NEED MONEY FOR?
YEAH.

I DID IT FOR THE MONEY


MY MOTHER REMARRIED, SO SHE'S GOT OTHER CHILDREN TO LOOK AFTER.
MY PARENTS EARN AN AVERAGE INCOME, WHICH MEANS THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY FOR MY TRIP.


I WANT TO STUDY ABROAD ...
...BUT MY MOTHER IS AGAINST THE IDEA.

I WANTED TO KNOW THE TRUTH LIKE YOU!
MORE IMPORTANTLY
BUT...
I'M DETERMINED TO GO TO PRAGUE
AND I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET THERE!
I WANT TO KNOW. BUT NO ONE'S BOTHERED TO TELL ME!
DID YOUR MOTHER TELL YOU ANYTHING?
HUH? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
YOU WANTED TO KNOW TOO, RIGHT?
THEN YOU'RE HERE TO CLAIM THE MONEY?
I DON'T BELIEVE YOUR MOTIVES ARE THAT PURE, LEAK-SAMA!
ESPECIALLY AS YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN BLABBING EVERYTHING TO THE MEDIA!
ARRGH! WHAT ARE YOU NAGGING ME FOR?!
I've come clean haven't I?
THEN STOP MAKING UP MORE EXCUSES!

LEAK-SAMA: Yuuma's derogatory title for the informer who leaked information

LOOK, I'M IN FAVOR OF GOING PUBLIC AND FACING THE MEDIA...
YEAH, GOOD QUESTION
Phew! What a relief!
WHAT WOULD BE THE DIFFERENCE?
WHY DON'T WE FIND OUT.
SO WHAT IF HE'S MIZUHO KAZUMITSU OR ASHINUMA NOZOMI? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE, ANYWAY?
...AND I DON'T REALLY CARE WHO MY FATHER TURNS OUT TO BE!
INTERNET
Keyword
ASHINUMA Nozomi
Search Engine
Google

Perhaps I shouldn't be keeping this secret from Hikaru
TAKAKO
THERE IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU!

I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE MUCH LONGER TO LIVE.

LEAF

ななひかり
NANAHIKARI
contact.22

Shimogura Law Office
GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING SENSEI
BY THE WAY,
I HAVE AN ERRAND FOR YOU.
YES?
PLEASE MAIL THIS FOR ME
SENSEI,
IS THIS
FROM MIZUHO KAZUMITSU?
YES, IT NEEDS TO BE STAMPED AND POSTMARKED.

I recall the first day we met...

EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU ATTORNEY SHIMOBURA-SAN?

IT SEEMS MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME
REALLY? THE ACTOR?
MY NAME IS MIZUHO KAZUMITSU

CHATTER
CHATTER
Half asleep

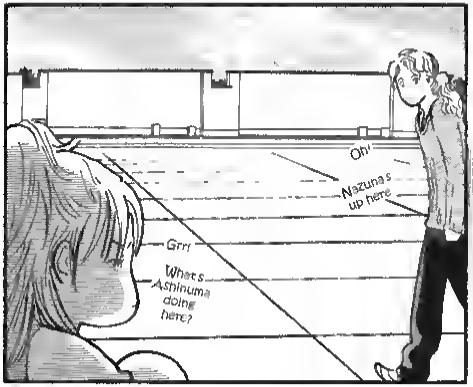
GRANDMA! ARE THERE REPORTERS OUTSIDE OUR HOUSE?!
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GO OUT THERE, HIKARU!
BUT...
HOW DID THEY...
GOODNESS KNOWS HOW THEY MANAGED TO TRACK US DOWN.
!
Mama...
They're disturbing the whole neighborhood. We've got nothing to do with the Mizuno family anymore!

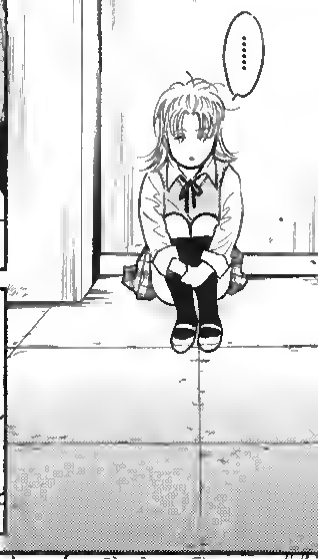
PHEW! I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER WITH!
MAMA!
HOW DID THEY KNOW WE WERE HERE?
THEY WERE GOING TO FIND US SOONER OR LATER.
I WAS EXPECTING THEM.
THEN...
Will they find all the other sons too?
I'M SORRY, HIKARU.
Huh? Why the sudden apology?
FOR REFUSING TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS THE OTHER DAY
OBVIOUSLY I OWE YOU A PROPER APOLOGY

I FEEL SO GUILTY ABOUT IT NOW.
I SHOULD'VE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING I KNEW ABOUT YOUR FATHER AND ASHINUMA NOZOMI AT THE TIME.
BUT ONCE I TELL YOU...
YOU MAY HATE YOUR FATHER FOR IT.
OH... THAT.

...YOU'RE FAR MORE MATURE THAN I THOUGHT...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO ASK QUESTIONS AND TO THINK AND ACT ON YOUR OWN INITIATIVE
YOU SEE...
YET I FEEL AS IF A LOAD HAS BEEN LIFTED OFF MY MIND...
SO I'LL TELL YOU NOW...
...WHAT I COULDN'T TELL YOU BEFORE...
AS YOUR MOTHER, LATELY I'VE BECOME VERY AWARE...
...THAT YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KEEP SECRETS

Now that she's being so open with me...
..I feel strangely reluctant to hear her out
What if I can't handle the truth?


Oh!
Nazuna's up here
Grr!
What's Ashinuma doing here?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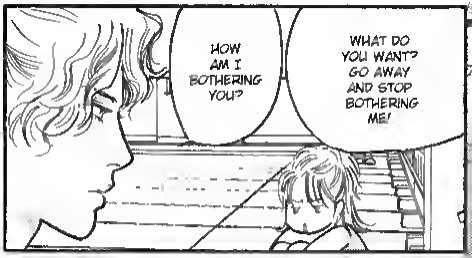
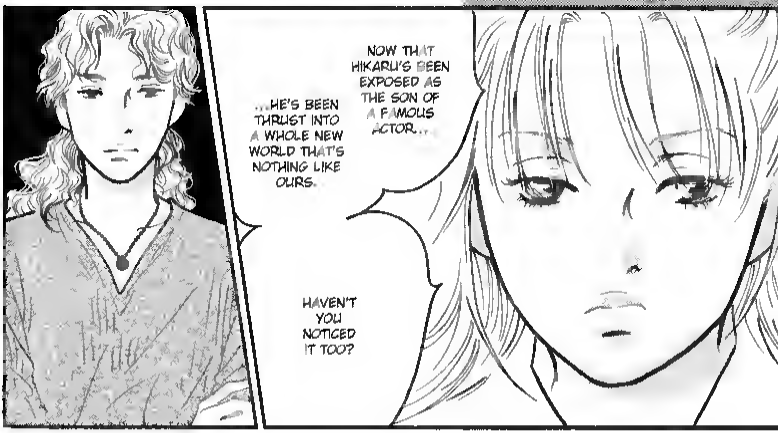
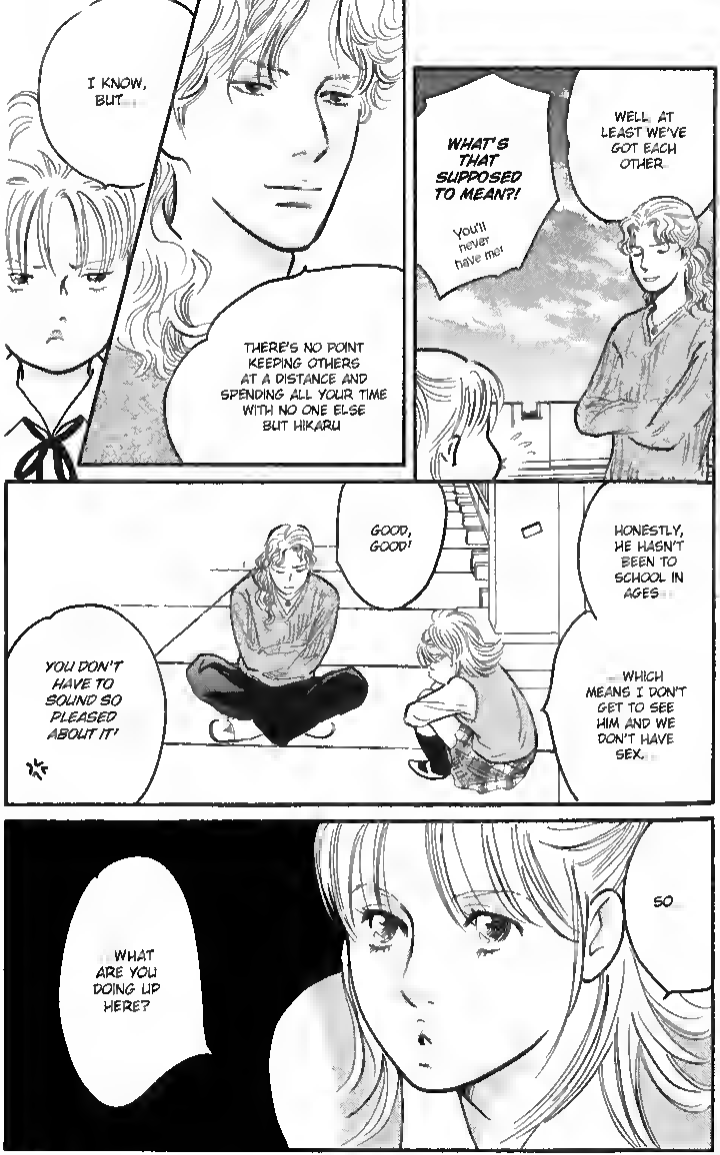

HOW AM I BOTHERING YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT? GO AWAY AND STOP BOTHERING ME!


...HE'S BEEN THRUST INTO A WHOLE NEW WORLD THAT'S NOTHING LIKE OURS.
NOW THAT HIKARU'S BEEN EXPOSED AS THE SON OF A FAMOUS ACTOR...
HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED IT TOO?


I KNOW, BUT...
THERE'S NO POINT KEEPING OTHERS AT A DISTANCE AND SPENDING ALL YOUR TIME WITH NO ONE ELSE BUT HIKARU
WELL, AT LEAST WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
You'll never have me!
HONESTLY, HE HASN'T BEEN TO SCHOOL IN AGES...
GOOD, GOOD!
...WHICH MEANS I DON'T GET TO SEE HIM AND WE DON'T HAVE SEX...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SOUND SO PLEASED ABOUT IT!
SO...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE?

I WAS JUST THINKING THAT LIFE IS FULL OF UPS AND DOWNS
What are you talking about?!
ME?
IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I MEAN, NEVER MIND
SEE YA
HEY! YOU LEAVING ALREADY?
YOU CRUSHED MY HOPES
HMPH! WHO'S HE TRYING TO FOOL?!

YUUMA!
WERE YOU FINALLY CORNERED BY THE MEDIA, HIKARU?
YEAH. THEY SHOWED UP AT MY GRANDMA'S PLACE.

I DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE TO...
ERR...
SO HOW DID YOU GO WITH SUETSUGU-SAN?
WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?
LYING LOW AT THE APARTMENT.
I'M SORRY!
HIKARU!
I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO..
UM...
THEN WHAT ABOUT THE ATTORNEY?
LOOK!
I JUST HAD TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL!

SURE I DO, BUT...
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW, HIKARU?
...I SUDDENLY REALIZED THE WORDS FROM MY MOTHER'S MOUTH...
YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
...WOULD BE THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH...
...AND IT FREAKED ME OUT.
I STARTED HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS WHILE I WAS DOING A QUICK INTERNET SEARCH

AN INTERNET SEARCH?
YEAH, ON MY OWN MOTHER.
I READ ALL THE GOSSIP ABOUT HER LOVE LIFE...
THE FILMS SHE STARRED IN,
AND THE NEWS OF HER MARRIAGE AND RETIREMENT...
MY MOTHER WAS YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL BACK THEN...
AT HOME SHE'S JUST LIKE ANY OTHER MIDDLE-AGED LADY...
...SO IT'S NO SURPRISE SHE ENDED UP STARRING IN FILMS WITH THE YOUNG AND ATTRACTIVE ACTOR MIZUHO KAZUMITSU!
IT WAS A REVELATION FOR ME, THOUGH.
...BUT OBVIOUSLY I WASN'T AROUND TO SEE HER IN HER YOUTH.

THEY WERE YOUNG AND CAREFREE...
...AND THEY LIVED THEIR LIVES TO THE FULL.
WHAT THEY DID WITH EACH OTHER AT THE TIME ISN'T REALLY ANY OF OUR BUSINESS.
DO YOU THINK WHAT HAPPENED LATER IS ALSO NONE OF OUR BUSINESS?
BECAUSE IF YOU DO--
...THEN THE SO-CALLED FACTS WILL NEVER BE REVEALED. ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN LIVE WITH THAT?

WHAT MATTERS THE MOST IS THAT WE'RE ALL HERE NOW, RIGHT?
SO LET'S LEAVE IT ALONE IT'S ANCIENT HISTORY.
YEAH...
Adults and their problems are beyond me—
YEAH, LET'S DO THAT.
—plus I've already got my hands full with my own problems

LET'S WORK OUT A PLAN ON WHAT WE SHOULD DO NEXT
WE CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM SCHOOL FOR MUCH LONGER, HUH?
YEAH

SHIMOGURA-SAN?

Shimogura Law Office

OH, ASHINUMA-KUN
AND YOU ARE...
WHY DON'T YOU DROP THE PRETENCE, SHIMOGURA-SAN?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
60.

YOU KNEW WHO I WAS FROM THE START, DIDN'T YOU?
AFTER ALL, I'VE CERTAINLY HEARD OF THE SHIMOGURA NAME BEFORE
IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIKARU...
GOING AS WELL AS YOU PLANNED?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SUGGEST?
NOTHING I'M JUST ASKING A STRAIGHT-FORWARD QUESTION

BUT MY UNCLE JUST HAPPENS TO BE ASHINUMA NOZOMI...
...AND I GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS HIKARU,
WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE SON OF MIZUHO KAZUMITSU.
AND I'M VERY SUSPICIOUS...
...OF YOU AND YOUR MOTIVES.
YOU DON'T SEEM THAT SURPRISED BY WHAT I'M SAYING.
IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE SO SURE OF YOURSELF?
OR MAYBE...
...YOU CAN'T BE BOTHERED GIVING SOMEONE LIKE ME THE TIME OF DAY?

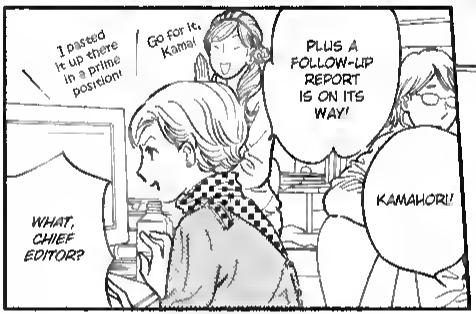
..DON'T APPEAR TO BE CAUGHT UP IN SUCH A DETRIMENTAL RELATIONSHIP
FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, AT LEAST YOU AND HIKARU...
THAT'S NOT IT, ASHINUMA-KUN
DETRIMENTAL?
YOU SHOULDN'T CALL IT THAT
WELL, NEVER MIND
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAY THAT...
...THEN I SUSPECT I'VE BEEN MUCH MORE DETRIMENTAL THAN YOU

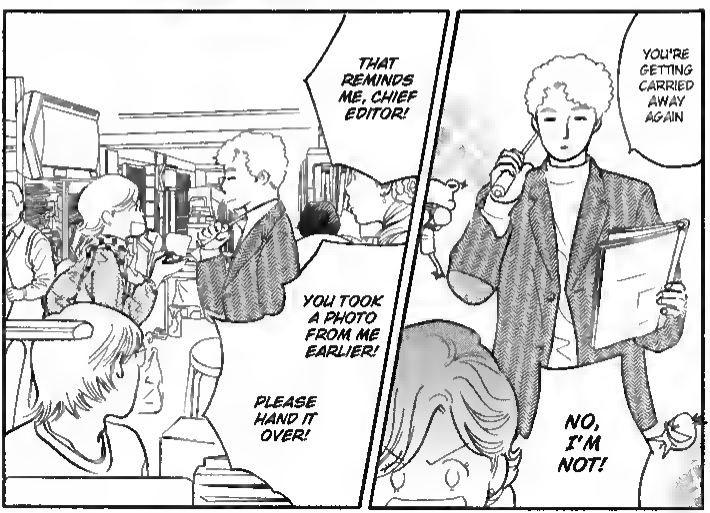
I ALREADY SAID ALL I WANTED TO SAY...
ASHINUMA NOZOMI AND I WERE CLOSE COLLEAGUES AND DEAR FRIENDS
BUT OUR TIME TOGETHER WAS CUT TRAGICALLY SHORT

YES
REALLY?
I HEARD YOUR OFFICE IS MANAGING HIS ESTATE
THEN YOU...
I'D LIKE TO ENGAGE YOUR SERVICES TOO
IF SO
IT'S A PLEASURE TO FINALLY MEET YOU I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON
NO, THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE

BRR
BRR
If you're going to tell me, then you should tell all of us. We're staying at an apartment. Attached is the address.
Hikaru

I DID IT!
SCOOP!
KAMA-HORI IS THE BEST!
EXCLUSIVE
EXPOSED: MIZUHO KAZUMITSU'S SECRET SONS
Dead at 55, his children live on!
SON
WEEKLY ENQUIRER


I passed it up there in a prime position!
Go for it, Kama!
PLUS A FOLLOW-UP REPORT IS ON ITS WAY!
KAMAHORI!
WHAT, CHIEF EDITOR?


THAT REMINDS ME, CHIEF EDITOR!
YOU TOOK A PHOTO FROM ME EARLIER!
PLEASE HAND IT OVER!
YOU'RE GETTING CARRIED AWAY AGAIN
NO, I'M NOT!

...HE MIGHT ALSO BE ONE OF MIZUHO'S SONS
YOU KNOW...
HERE
HUH?
APPARENTLY MIZUHO FATHERED A CHILD WITH A WOMAN HE DATED WHEN HE WAS A STUDENT.
BUT HE'S MUCH TOO OLD!
You're mean, Chief Editor! You knew this all along!
OH WELL, LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT.
WHO TOLD YOU?
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I WAS TOLD
I GUESS WE SHOULDN'T PUT THAT IN PRINT WE'VE GOT NO PROOF.

THE STORY OF MIZUHO'S SECRET SONS JUST KEEPS GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER.
SOME ARE EVEN STARTING TO WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING A BIT FISHY ABOUT IT
WHAT ABOUT THE INTERVIEW WITH ONE TAKAKO?
I'LL GET ONTO IT NOW!
Kamahori's team don't sleep on the job, you know!
But what?
Have we overlooked something significant?
.....

I've been wandering aimlessly through the streets...
...but even without a destination in mind, how did I end up in this dump?
I should be prepared to hunker down and spend the night out here like them
For
Was this as unintentional as I thought
...or not?
Besides, I should be ready for this.

I just wish I had Hikaru's belief
YOU'RE NOT ALONE, WATARI-SAN!
YOU'VE GOT ALL YOUR OTHER HALF-BROTHERS TO LE'N ON!
LITTERING IS AGAINST THE LAW, WATARI-SAN
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU EVERY-WHERE

HIYA!
DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S RUDE NOT TO ANSWER YOUR CELLPHONE?
TOMORROW HIKARU'S MAMA WILL BE PAYING US A VISIT!
WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK WITH US TO THE APARTMENT?
YOU TWO...
YOU SURE I WON'T BE IN YOUR WAY?
WELL, TO BE HONEST WITH YOU...
LOOK, HE'S THE ONE WHO WON'T ACCEPT ANY OF US AS MIZUHO'S SONS APART FROM HIKARU!
YULIMA!

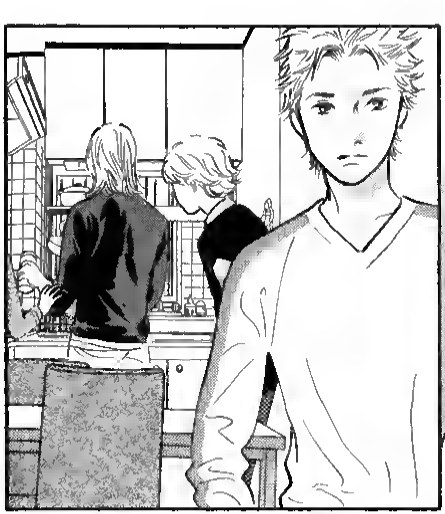
ANYWAY, THE OTHER GUYS ARE KEEN TO MEET YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT
WE STILL MIGHT SHARE THE SAME FATHER.
EVEN IF SUETSUGU-SAN DOESN'T ACCEPT US, RIGHT, YUUMA?
MISSED CALLS
Hikaru
Hikaru
Hikaru
Hikaru
Hikaru
YEAH, HE'S HERE WE GOT HIM
HEY HIKARU!

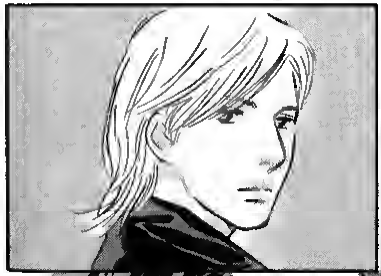
YUUMA!
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, HIKARU!
DIDN'T I WARN YOU TO KEEP THAT HOOD ON YOUR HEAD?!
HIKARU
HUFF HUFF
WHAT A RELIEF!
I KEPT TRYING BUT I COULDN'T REACH YOU ON YOUR CELLPHONE!

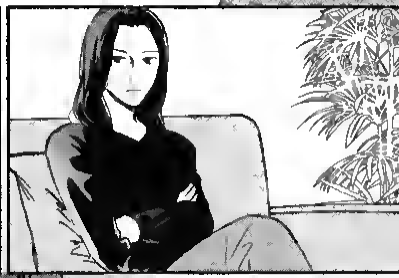
LET'S GO!
DON'T MOPE OUT HERE ON YOUR OWN
THERE ARE TWO OTHER GUYS WHO WANT TO MEET YOU
YOU'VE GOT TO COOK DINNER FOR US!
YOU DID A GREAT JOB LAST TIME!

BRR BRR
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ANSWER YOUR PHONE?
I should've had the courage to break up with Hikaru.
Damn cellphone.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

The sound of my cellphone ringing...
...fills me with dread.
WHAT'S WRONG?
WELL, I'M HAVING TROUBLE REACHING HIM







contact #2
END

ななひかり
NANAHIKARI
contact.23

ISN'T HE ANSWERING HIS CELL-PHONE?
MAYBE HE'S TOO BUSY OR SOMETHING
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME WITH HIM.

HE'S WELL AWARE THAT NOTHING GOOD CAN COME FROM YOUR AFFAIR WITH HIM.
BUT YOU ARE, AREN'T YOU?
AM I?
...YET HE CONTINUES TO USE YOU FOR HIS OWN AMUSEMENT.
IT'S JUST...
...I HOPE YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE
NOT REALLY.
DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER WARNINGS FOR ME, WATARI-SAN?

WHO ARE YOU TO TALK, WATARI-SAN?!
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING WHEN YOU USED HIM LIKE THAT?
WERE YOU DOING THAT FOR ME?
IT WASN'T JUST FOR ME, WAS IT?
OR WAS THERE SOME OTHER REASON?

I DO HAVE SOME IDEA OF YOUR OVERWHELMING SENSE OF LOSS,
WATARI-SAN...
HONESTLY, IT'S UNREALISTIC TO RELY ON SOMEONE LIKE ME...
...TO CURE YOU OF YOUR LONELINESS.
...AND I CAN IMAGINE HOW YOU MUST FEEL.

HIS BEHAVIOR TOWARDS ME ISN'T SIMPLY MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO FOOL AROUND. THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE DRIVING HIM.
SINCE I'VE GOT TO KNOW SHIMOGURA-SAN...
I GET THE FEELING HE'S EXPERIENCING A SIMILAR KIND OF LONELINESS TOO
SHIMOGURA-SAN KEEPS HIS TRUE FEELINGS TO HIMSELF, EVEN THOUGH HE IS SERIOUS ABOUT ME
BUT BECAUSE HE THINKS I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH,

SHIMOGURA-SAN...
...HANDLES EVERYTHING WITH THE MATURITY OF AN ADULT.

BUT HIKARU...
...HE'LL ONLY MAKE YOU SAD.

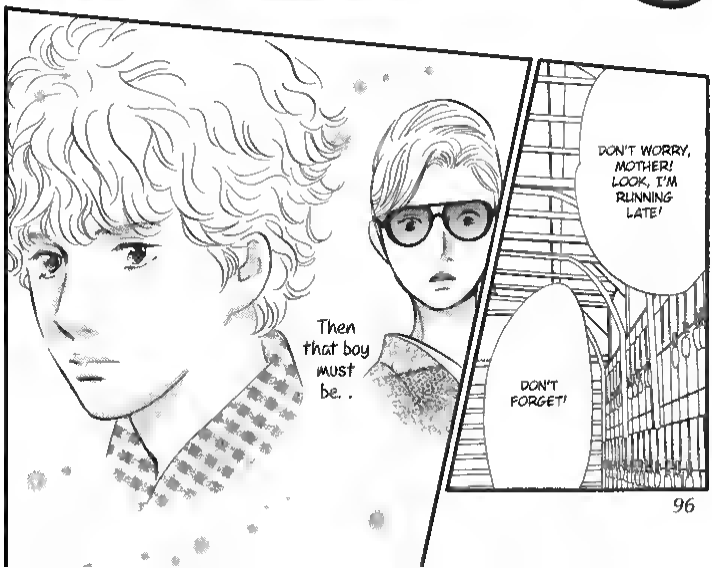
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

toot

Oh! I've seen those uniforms before!
There must be a music academy near this train station.

出口
ALL RIGHT
REMEMBER, SHION!
WHEN YOU SEE JUNICHI-KUN, TELL HIM HE MUST COME BACK HOME!

Is that Youko-san?

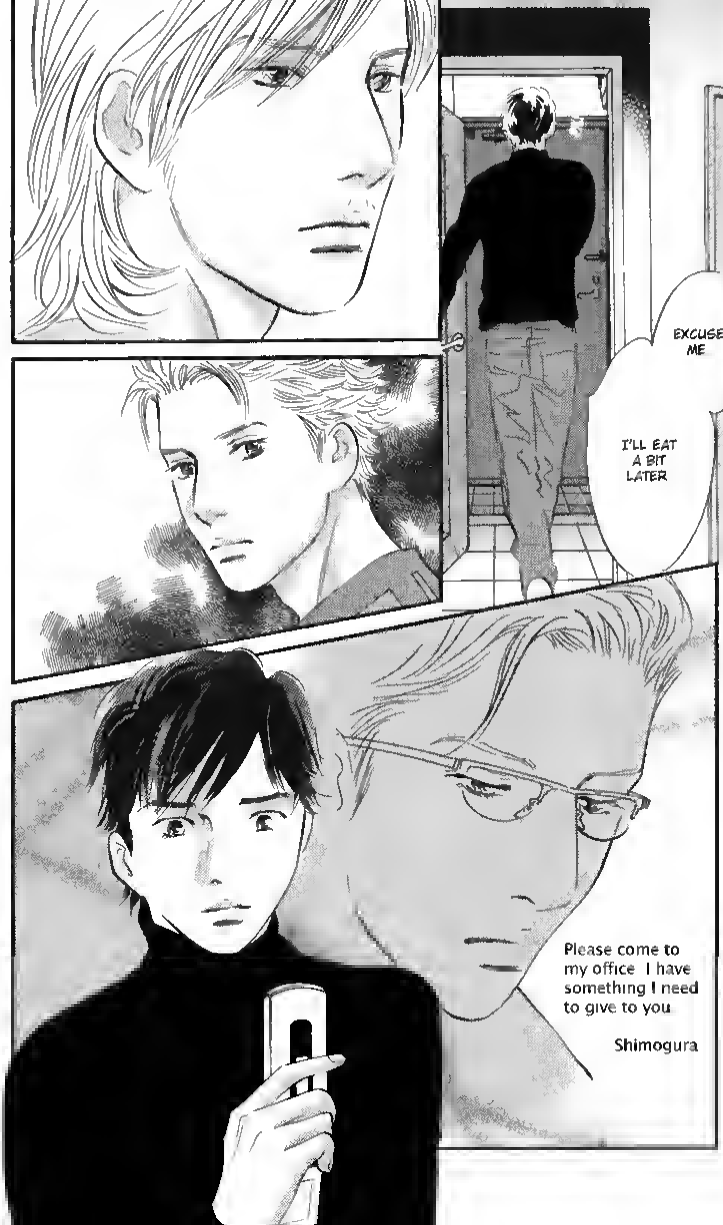

DON'T WORRY, MOTHER! LOOK, I'M RUNNING LATE!
DON'T FORGET!
Then that boy must be. .

DaSH
HEY!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
It's Jun-chan!
!?
Shion,
Don't go to school today. I need to talk to you. Come to the attached address as soon as you can.
Junichi

HIKARU, DO YOU WANT MILK?
YEAH, THANKS.
WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT LAST NIGHT?
EH?
OH, NOTHING SERIOUS.
REALLY? IT LOOKED PRETTY SERIOUS TO ME.
.....
I can't keep a good poker face!

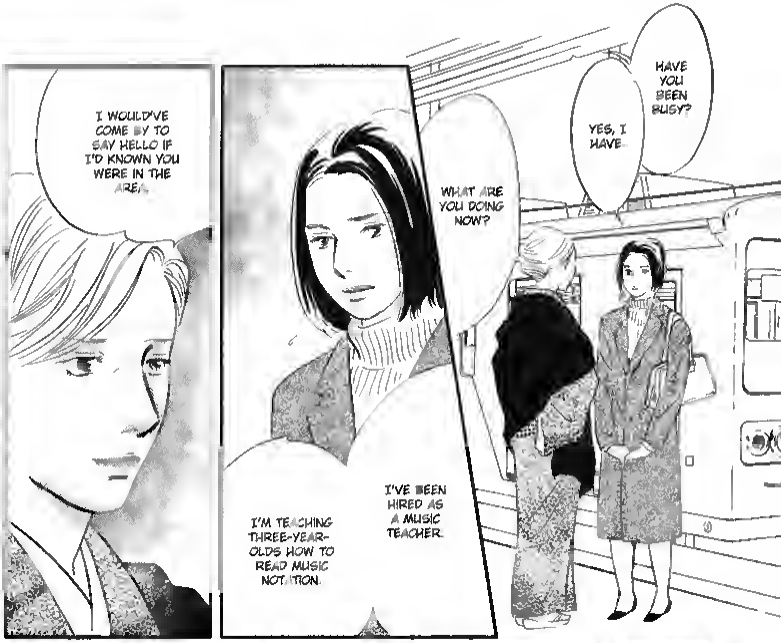
I SENT A TEXT MESSAGE TO SHION
TELL ME IF THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON
YEAH, ALL RIGHT
I KNOW YOU'RE THE KIND OF GUY WHO KEEPS THINGS BOTTLED UP INSIDE
YEAH, BUT I'M NOT SURE WHETHER HE'LL TURN UP OR NOT
YUIZUKI SHION?
I'M NOT SURE
BUT SHE DID SEND A MESSAGE SAYING SHE WAS WILLING TO TALK TO US ALL, SO SHE'LL PROBABLY COME SOON
HOW LONG BEFORE YOUR MOTHER ARRIVES, HIKARU?

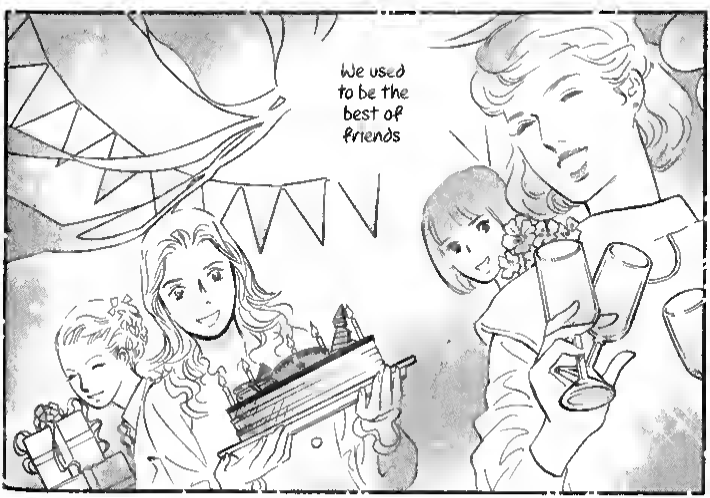
HM?
IS IT MORNING ALREADY?
SATOU YUU!
WAKE UP!
BREAK-FAST IS READY!
HIKARU!
YEAH, I'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE!
HIKARU, TIME TO EAT!
NEW MESSAGE
Shimogura


EXCUSE ME
I'LL EAT A BIT LATER
Please come to my office I have something I need to give to you
Shimogura

Something he needs to give me...
Like what?
YUUMA,
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE
HUH?
I WON'T BE LONG. I'LL BE BACK SOON
HEY! HANG ON A MINUTE!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HIKARU!
YUUMA, WHERE'S HIKARU GONE?

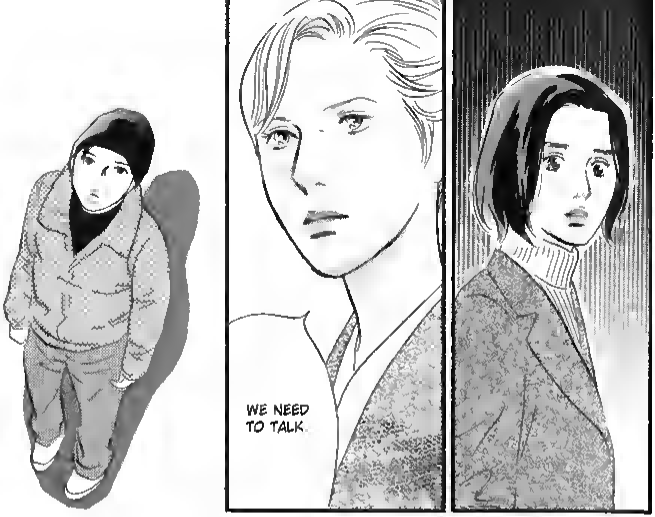
YOUKO-SAN!
I'M NOT SURE
EXCUSE ME ARE YOU YUZUKI YOUKO-SAN?
OF COURSE I REMEMBER!
IT'S ME, TAKAKO!
SEEING YOUR INTERVIEW ON T.V. THE OTHER DAY BROUGHT BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES
ONE TAKAKO! DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

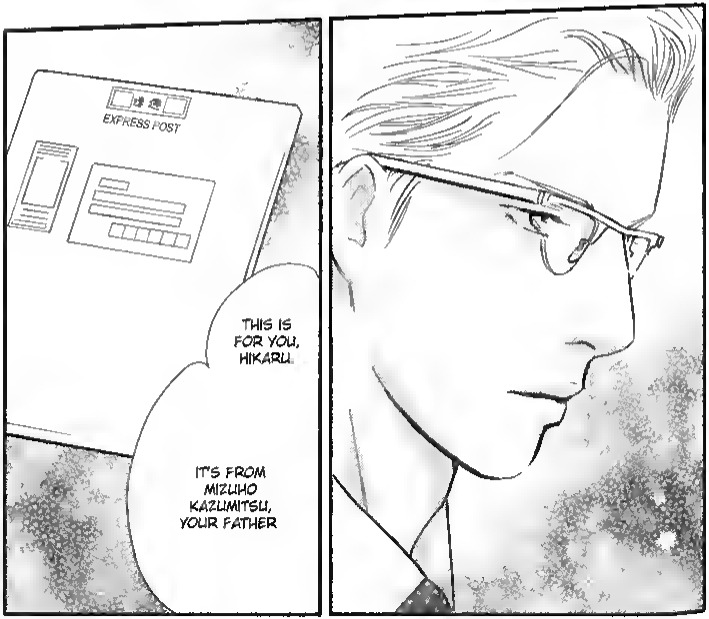

HAVE YOU BEEN BUSY?
YES, I HAVE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
I'VE BEEN HIRED AS A MUSIC TEACHER.
I'M TEACHING THREE-YEAR-OLDS HOW TO READ MUSIC NOTATION.
I WOULD'VE COME BY TO SAY HELLO IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE IN THE AREA.


We used to be the best of friends

Shimogura
Law Office
YOUR SON HIKARU-KUN'S GROWN UP SO MUCH
WERE YOU WITH YOUR BOY SHION-KUN JUST NOW?
I CAUGHT SIGHT OF HIM
HE LOOKS A LOT LIKE YOU.
THE WHOLE THING WAS A BAD IDEA, WASN'T IT?

LATELY I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT WHAT WE DID BACK THEN WAS FOOLISH
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I WOULDN'T CHANGE A THING
BUT I KNOW THAT MY SON WILL BE ASHAMED OF ME WHEN HE FINDS OUT
DO YOU REGRET IT?
FORGIVE ME, BUT I'M RUNNING LATE
DID MANAMI PASS AWAY? I DIDN'T KNOW
THEN I'LL WAIT FOR YOU UNTIL YOU FINISH WORK
BUT MANAMI WAS DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW
AT LEAST SHE WAS HAPPY UNTIL THE DAY SHE DIED


WE NEED TO TALK.


速達
EXPRESS POST
THIS IS FOR YOU, HIKARU.
IT'S FROM MIZUHO KAZUMITSU, YOUR FATHER

...I WAS ASKED TO MAIL THIS TO YOU NO MATTER WHAT...
ONCE YOU COMMENCE THE TASK OF DIVIDING KAZUMITSU'S ESTATE AMONG HIS LEGALLY RECOGNIZED SONS...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S WRITTEN INSIDE?
I HAVE NO IDEA

IS THERE ANY POINT IN READING IT NOW?
EXPRESS POST
HIKARU...
THIS IS YOUR FATHER'S FIRST AND LAST LETTER TO YOU. DOESN'T THAT COUNT FOR SOMETHING?
YOU'VE GOT A SENSIBLE ANSWER FOR EVERYTHING, HUH?

HIKARU!
rip
ビリ
...AND IT'S BEEN CAUSING ME MORE GRIEF THAN MY FATHER COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED!
RIGHT NOW I'M HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH HIS ATTORNEY...
SO WHAT IF I RIP IT UP? WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

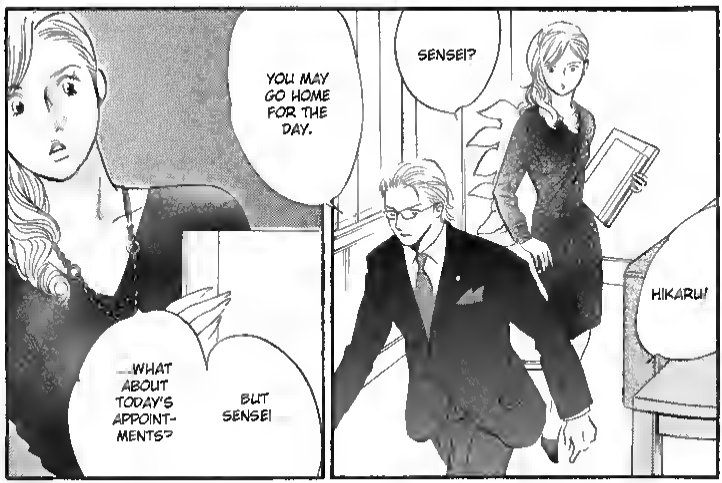
SO YOU THINK HIS LETTER IS WORTH READING?
DON'T BE SO DISRESPECTFUL TO THE MEMORY OF YOUR FATHER.
YOU SHOULD TAKE THE TIME TO READ HIS LETTER...
...AND THEN
...WE SHOULD PUT AN END TO THIS.

NO!

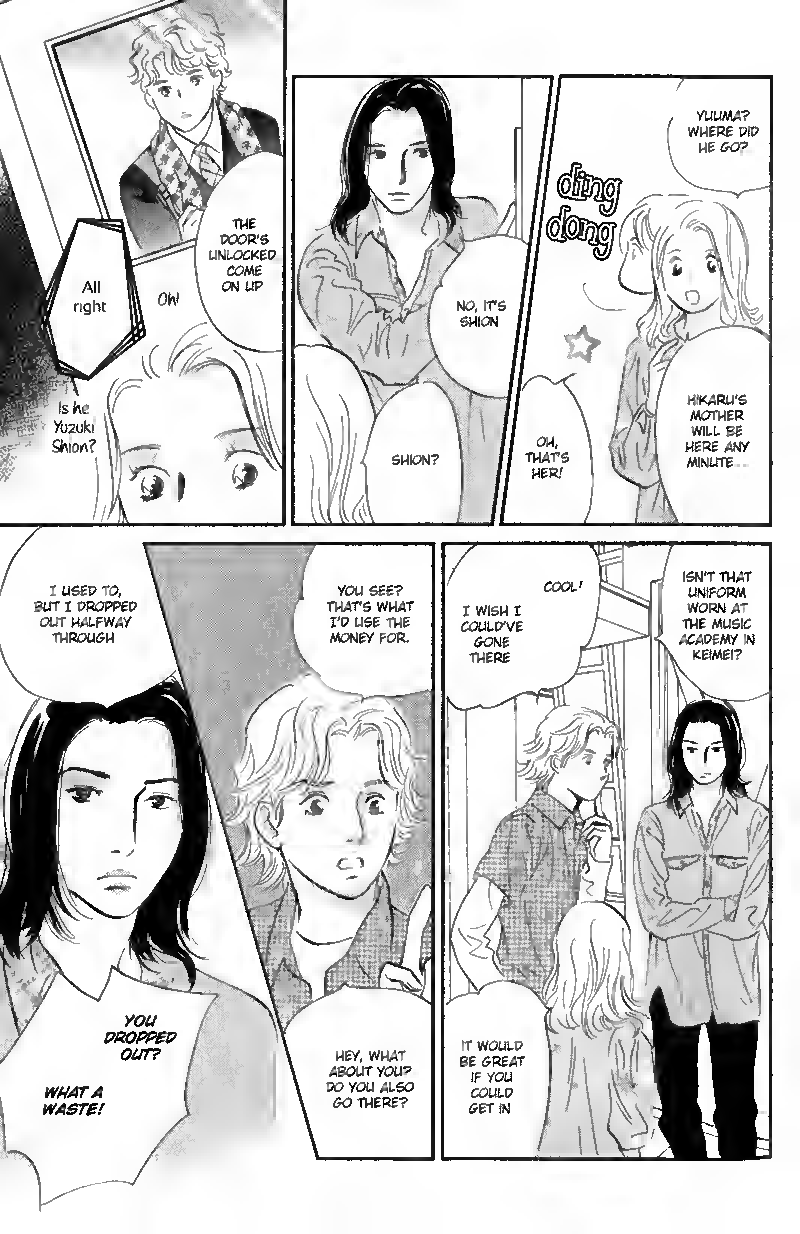
YOU'RE NOT THE ONE.
...WHO DECIDES WHEN TO END THIS.
IT'S UP TO ME. I'LL DECIDE
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE SO SELFISH THAT YOU WON'T SEE ME ANYMORE...
...THEN THERE'S NO WAY I'M ENDING THIS.

HIKARU, PLEASE...
YOU THINK NOW THAT YOU'VE GIVEN ME THIS, YOUR JOB IS DONE?
DO YOU?
.....
MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PRESSURING ME...
TO GROW UP AND ACT LIKE AN ADULT
SO IT'S HIGH TIME I STARTED, RIGHT?

DASH
I'LL SHOW YOU ALL!

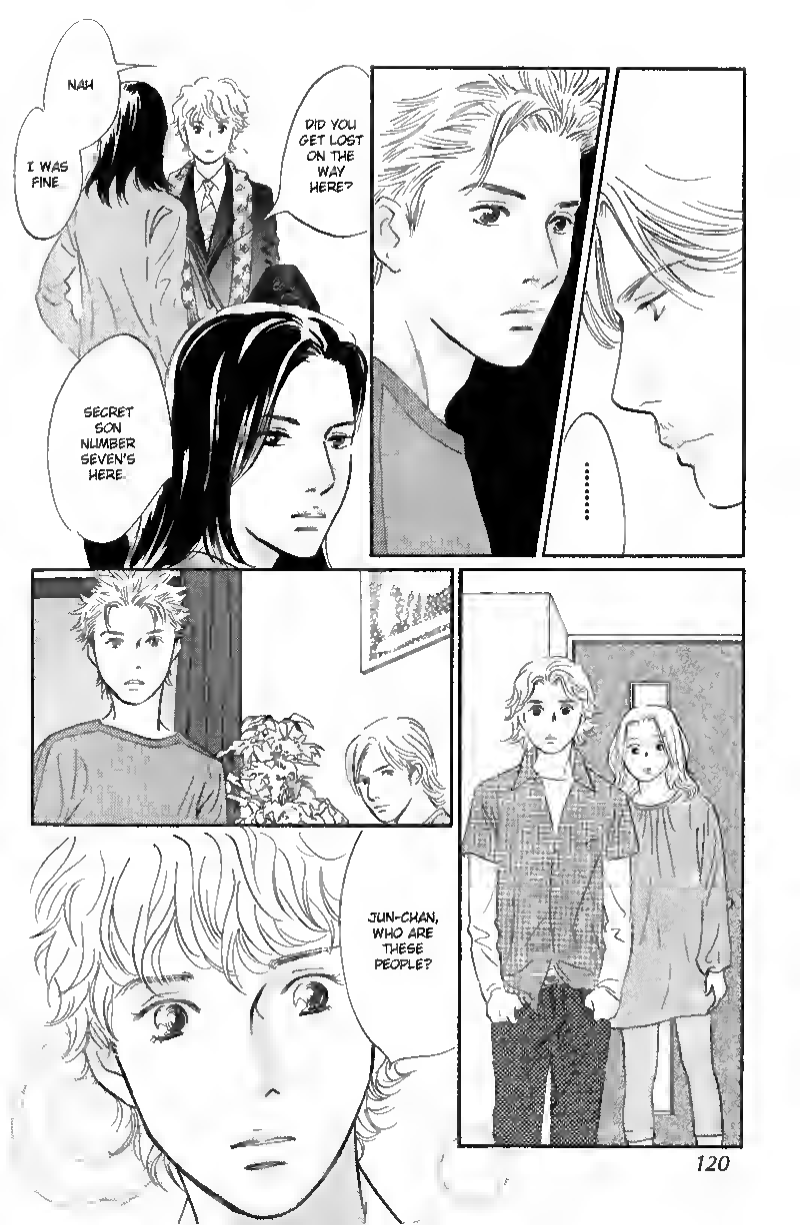

SENSEI?
YOU MAY GO HOME FOR THE DAY.
HIKARU!
—WHAT ABOUT TODAY'S APPOINT-MENTS?
BUT SENSEI!

OH!
CANCEL THEM ALL!
WHERE'S HIKARU?
HE RUSHED OUT SOMEWHERE. HE'S NOT BACK YET.
HAS HE BEEN IN TOUCH, YUUMA?


THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED COME ON UP
OW
All right
Is he Yuzuki Shion?
NO, IT'S SHION
SHION?
ding dong
YUUMA? WHERE DID HE GO?
OH, THAT'S HER!
HIKARU'S MOTHER WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE...
I USED TO, BUT I DROPPED OUT HALFWAY THROUGH
YOU SEE? THAT'S WHAT I'D USE THE MONEY FOR.
YOU DROPPED OUT?
WHAT A WASTE!
HEY, WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU ALSO GO THERE?
I WISH I COULD'VE GONE THERE
COOL!
ISN'T THAT UNIFORM WORN AT THE MUSIC ACADEMY IN KEIMEI?
IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU COULD GET IN

HOW WOULD I KNOW?
SUETSUGU-SAN...
...HAVE YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHERE HIKARU'S GONE?
YOU'RE NOT BAD AT READING PEOPLE...
...BUT YOU CAN'T PROVE MUCH IN PRACTICE
LAST NIGHT YOU AND HIKARU WERE HAVING A DEEP AND MEANINGFUL TALK
I WAS WONDERING IF IT'S GOT ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIS DISAPPEARANCE TODAY
HAS HE GONE TO THE ATTORNEY'S PLACE?

WELL DONE YOU'RE PRETTY PERCEPTIVE, HUH?
ACTUALLY I'M NOT THAT PERCEPTIVE I WAS WATCHING YOUR FACE FOR ANY TELLTALE CLUES
HIKARU AND ATTORNEY SHIMOGURA ARE VERY CLOSE, AREN'T THEY?
BUT LATELY I'VE NOTICED HIKARU'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE
BUT..
IT'S WORKED PRETTY WELL SO FAR, HUH?
IF YOU'RE WAITING FOR ME TO CONFIRM OR DENY ANYTHING, YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME


NAH
I WAS FINE.
DID YOU GET LOST ON THE WAY HERE?
SECRET SON NUMBER SEVEN'S HERE.
.....
JUN-CHAN, WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

WELL, IN OUR CASE WE WERE APPROACHED BY THE SON OF MIZUHO KAZUMITSU'S FORMER WIFE
BY WHO? THAT ATTORNEY WHO APPEARED THE OTHER DAY?
WE'VE BEEN BROUGHT TOGETHER
The son of Mizuho Kazumitsu?!

You kept coming to me until I couldn't get enough of you.
What am I supposed to do now that I can't let you go?

Don't feel sorry for me.
That's the last thing I want
We find solace in each other's arms..
.so I don't want your pity.

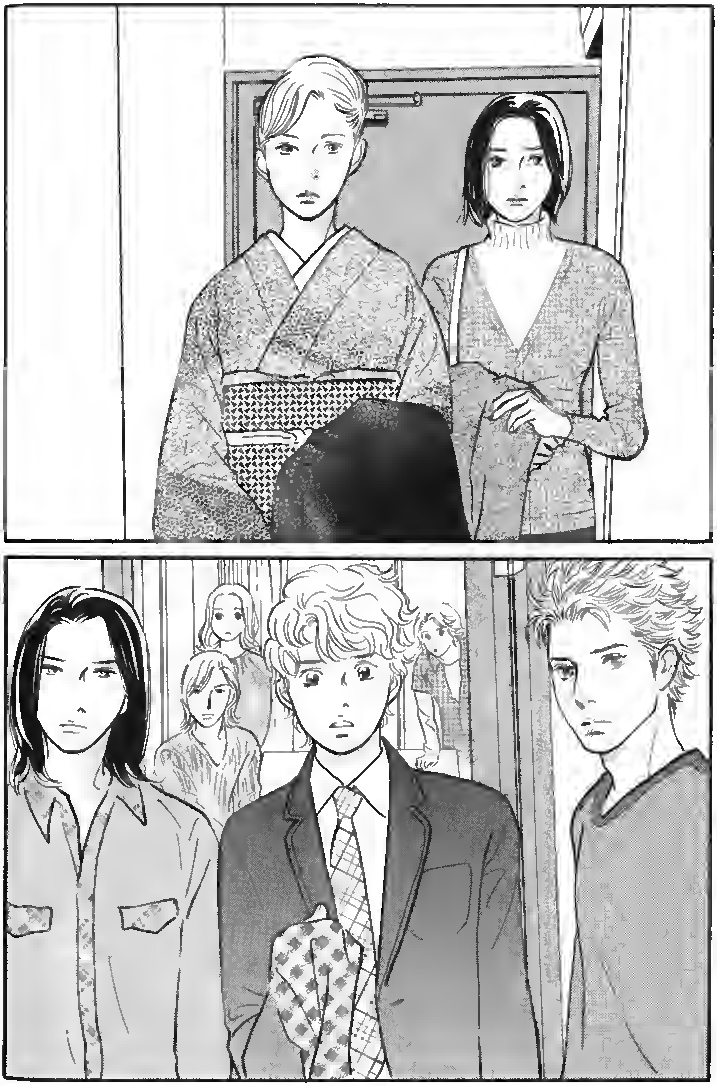
Now I'm just a slave
It's humiliating at my age.

My heart aches.
We've settled into a predictable routine, haven't we? Is it a sign this isn't love?
Do you realize...
...I've become your slave?
I can't tell right now
Later I'll work out what this really is.
I'm sure of it.

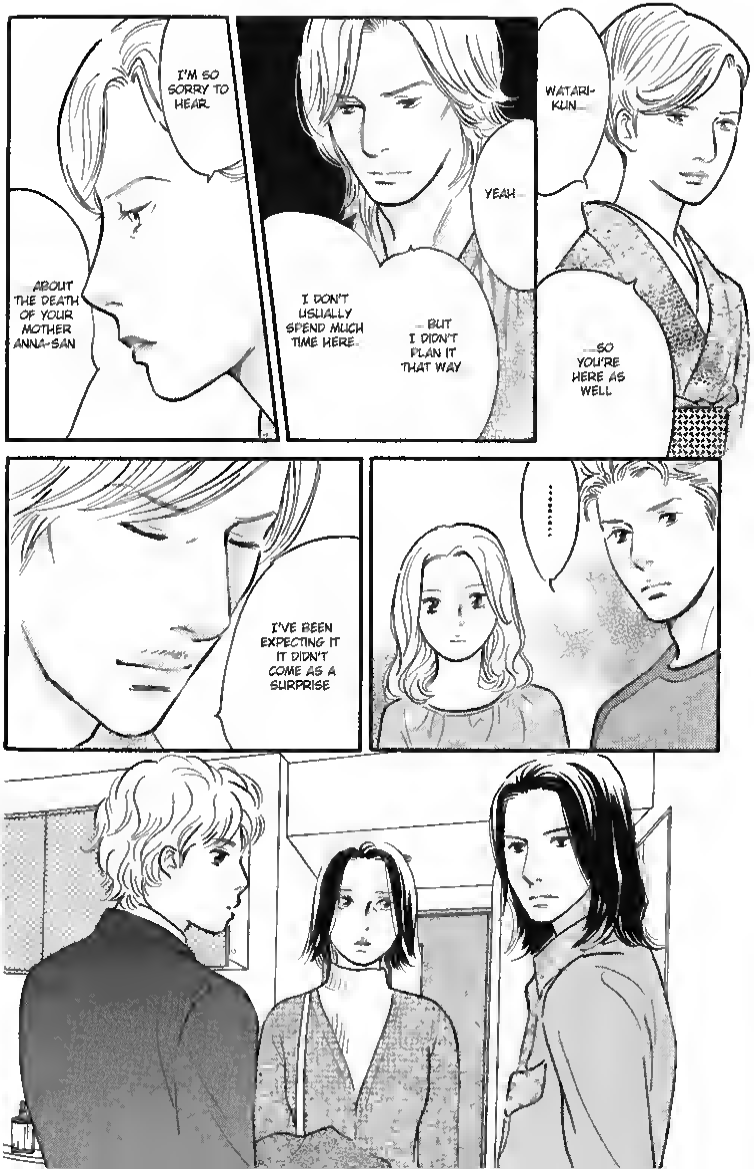
EXPRESS POST
Hikaru!
I'm here
ding dong
ピンポーン

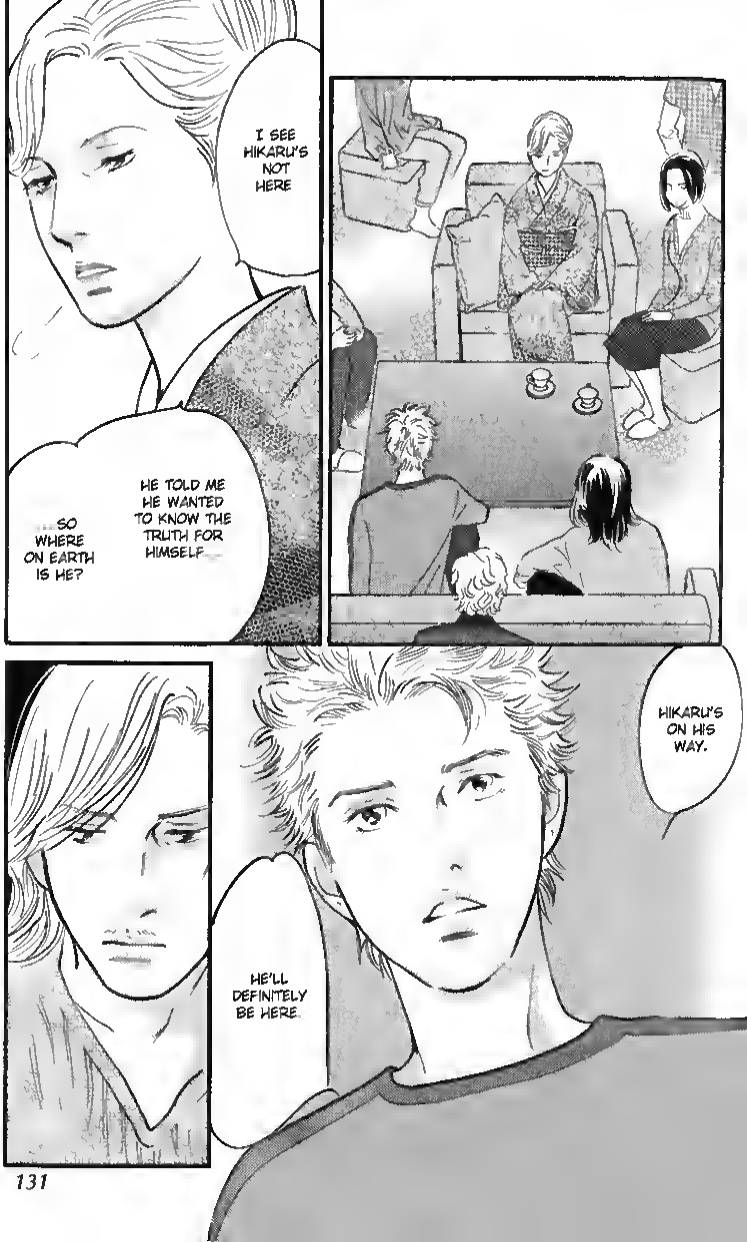
contact.25
END

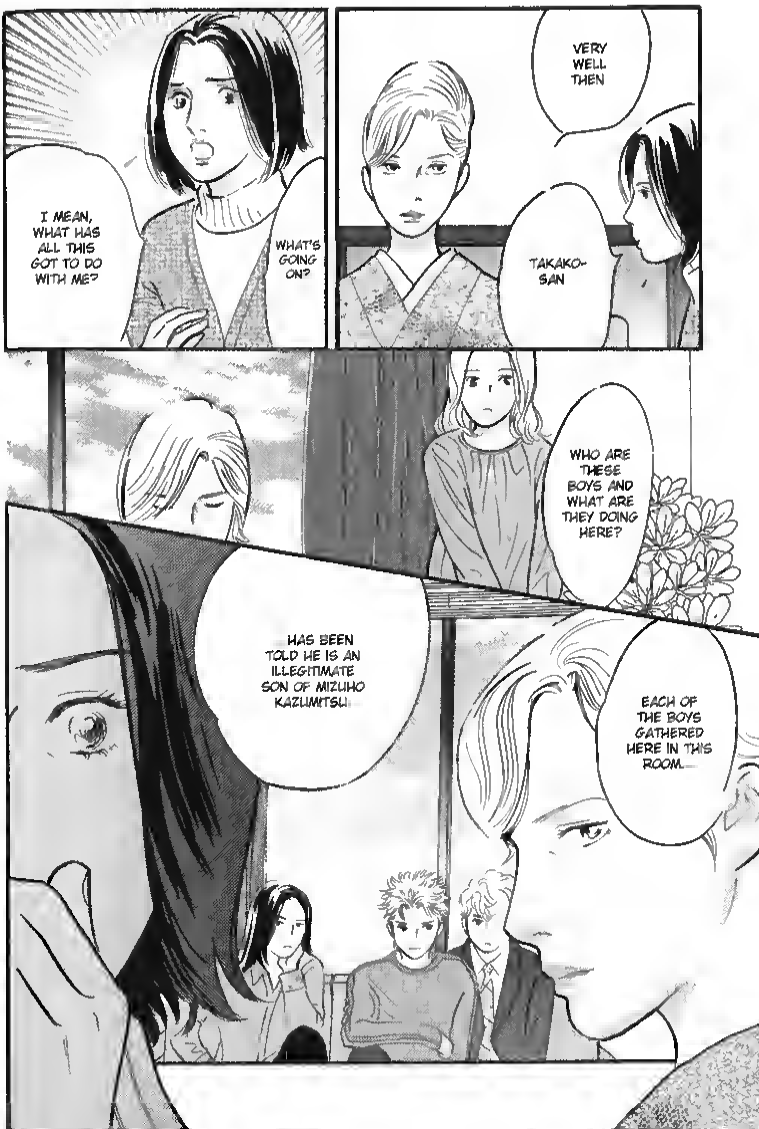
ななひかり
NANAHIKARI
contact.24



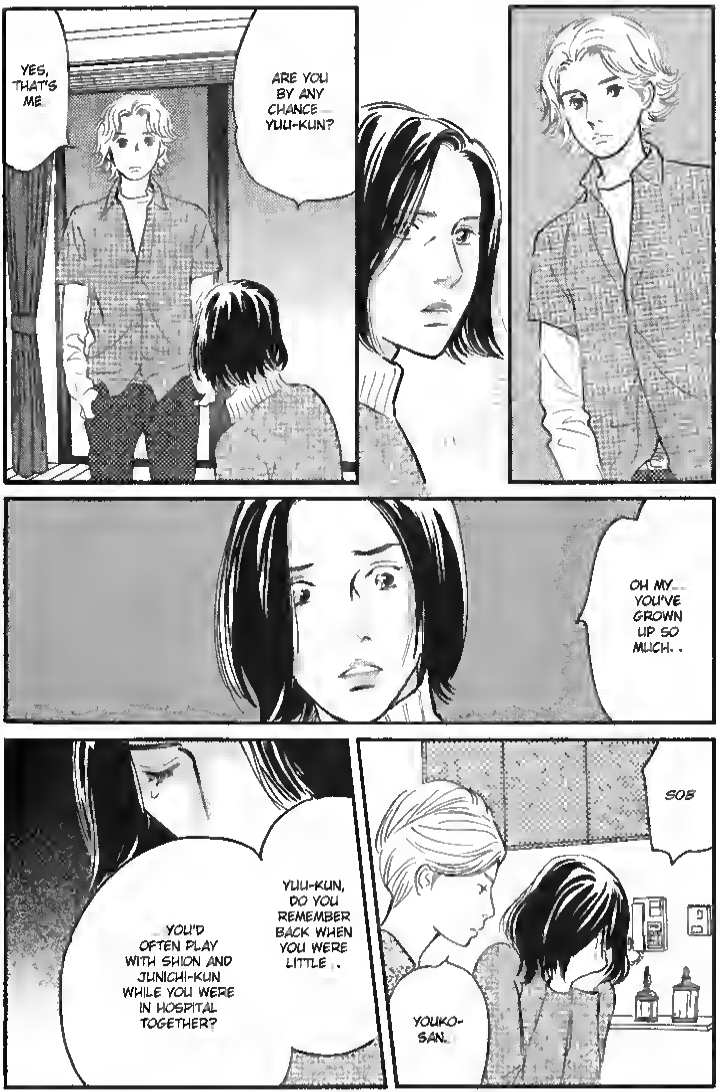
JUNICHI-KUN!
SHION!
MOTHER?
NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE WHY DON'T WE SIT DOWN?
CALM DOWN THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC
MOTHER...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, JUNICHI-KUN?
DO YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERY-WHERE FOR YOU?
MAKE YOUR-SELVES AT HOME


I'M SO SORRY TO HEAR
ABOUT THE DEATH OF YOUR MOTHER ANNA-SAN
YEAH
I DON'T USUALLY SPEND MUCH TIME HERE
—BUT I DIDN'T PLAN IT THAT WAY
WATARI-KUN
—SO YOU'RE HERE AS WELL
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING IT IT DIDN'T COME AS A SURPRISE
.....


I SEE HIKARU'S NOT HERE
HE TOLD ME HE WANTED TO KNOW THE TRUTH FOR HIMSELF
...SO WHERE ON EARTH IS HE?
HIKARU'S ON HIS WAY.
HE'LL DEFINITELY BE HERE.


I MEAN, WHAT HAS ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH ME?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
VERY WELL THEN
TAKAKO-SAN
WHO ARE THESE BOYS AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
HAS BEEN TOLD HE IS AN ILLEGITIMATE SON OF MIZUHO KAZUMITSU.
EACH OF THE BOYS GATHERED HERE IN THIS ROOM...

HUH?
SO IT'S UNTRUE?
FIRST OF ALL, THERE'S NO WAY SHION...
I HAD NO IDEA!
BUT I...
THE RUMORS ABOUT US ARE WRONG, AREN'T THEY?
CALM YOURSELF AND SIT DOWN...
PLEASE, YOUKO-SAN...

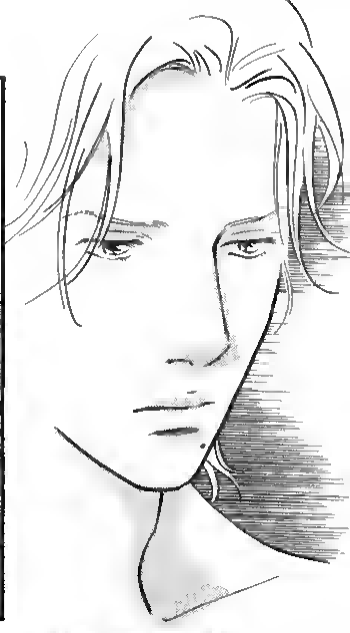

YES, THAT'S ME.
ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE... YUU-KUN?
OH MY... YOU'VE GROWN UP SO MUCH..
SOS
YOUKO-SAN.
YUU-KUN, DO YOU REMEMBER BACK WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE..
...YOU'D OFTEN PLAY WITH SHION AND JUNICHI-KUN WHILE YOU WERE IN HOSPITAL TOGETHER?

HIKARU...

くしゃ
crush
YOU AND I..
ONCE YOU READ THAT LETTER,
I'M NOT READING IT
HIKARU!
BUT...
WHY NOT? IT'S MY LETTER!
YOU CAN'T SCRUNCH IT UP LIKE THAT!
WAIT A SEC!

ONCE I READ IT...
...YOU AND I WILL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, RIGHT?
I JUST KNOW IT.
RIGHT NOW...
...I WANT YOU TO TELL ME ABOUT MY FATHER.
SHIMOGURA-SAN, YOU KNEW HIM, DIDN'T YOU?

DID YOU ALSO KNOW THE FAMOUS CONDUCTOR ASHINUMA NOZOMI?
I ONCE WORKED IN A LAW FIRM THAT MANAGED HIS ASSETS WHILE HE WAS ALIVE.



CURRENTLY I HAVE MY OWN PRACTICE, BUT BACK THEN I GOT MY START IN EUROPE AS A JUNIOR LAWYER IN A BIG FIRM.
I GUESS NEWS OF THIS MANAGED TO REACH MIZUHO
HOWEVER, I NEVER DID MEET ASHINUMA NOZOMI IN PERSON

— BECAUSE WHEN I CAME BACK TO JAPAN —
— AND OPENED MY OWN LEGAL PRACTICE, HE PAID ME A VISIT
THIS WAS TWO YEARS AGO IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER.
HE TOLD ME HE WANTED MY HELP IN WRITING A WILL.
A WILL?
ARE YOU OFTEN ASKED TO WRITE UP WILLS?
NO, HARDLY EVER
I THOUGHT IT WAS AN UNUSUAL REQUEST AT THE TIME.

SHIMOGIRA-SAN

MIZUHO HAD BEEN CONSUMED BY GUILT...
EVER SINCE ASHINUMA NOZOMI'S UNTIMELY DEATH ALL THOSE YEARS AGO
I RECALL HIM SAYING 'IF ONLY I HAD KNOWN ABOUT ASHINUMA'S FEELINGS FOR ME...'
MY UNCLE...
...EXPRESSED HIS FERVENT LOVE FOR MIZUHO KAZUMITSU IN WRITING.
SO YOU KNEW?
MY SEMPAI TOLD ME...
...ASHINUMA NOZOMI KEPT A JOURNAL.

MAMA?
NO WAY...
DOES YOUR MOTHER KNOW?
I SEE.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING SHE'D NEVER SUSPECT...
WOULD SHE?
THEN WHY DID YOUR PARENTS DIVORCE?

DO YOU KNOW, SHIMOGURA-SAN?
DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH BEHIND THEIR DIVORCE?
Mama!
Eh? He didn't?
Hmph!
WELL... HE DID SLEEP AROUND A LOT...
BUT I DO THINK IT WAS FOOLISH OF HER TO DECEIVE YOU ABOUT YOUR FATHER
SO I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE YOU AN ANSWER
...WHY YOUR MOTHER WANTED A DIVORCE.
MIZUHO TOLD ME HE HAD NO IDEA.

BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL HIS SON...
NOTHING MORE
HIKARU ..
I'LL GET MAMA TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO ME
WHY? AM I NO LONGER OF USE TO YOU?

...BUT TO RUN AWAY NOW WOULD BE TAKING THE EASY WAY OUT
YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU LIKE, HIKARU...
I WAS IN LOVE WITH MIZUHO KAZUMITSU

THE MORE I SAW HIM, THE WORSE I FELT.
MY LIFE BECAME A LIVING HELL.
MY LOVE FOR HIM TURNED INTO AN OBSESSION...
THAT CAUSED ME NOTHING BUT HEARTBREAK.

NOW CAN YOU SEE HOW I MADE USE OF YOU,
HIKARU?
NO.

creak
끼익

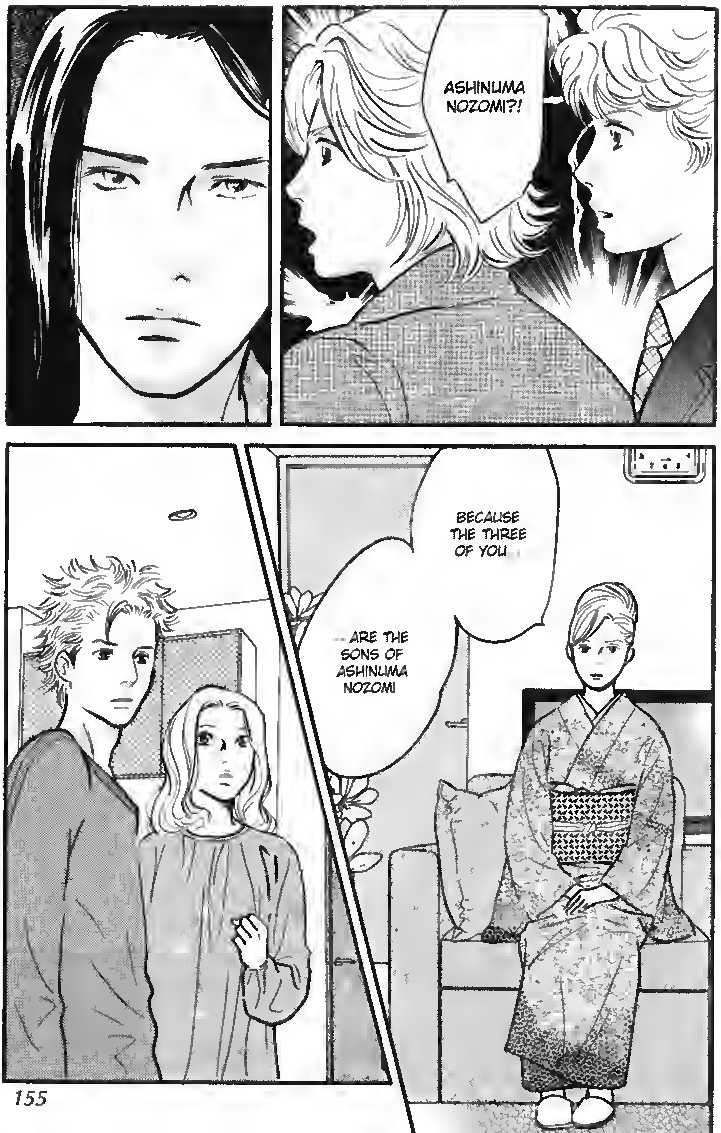
MM.
AND TO THINK THAT YOU HAD THE NERVE...
huff
...TO SAY AT OUR VERY FIRST MEETING
.....
...YOU LOOK NOTHING LIKE YOUR FATHER!

BUT...
...I DON'T LOOK LIKE HIM!
YET THAT'S EXACTLY
...WHAT ATTRACTED ME TO YOU I FOUND IT A TURN-ON.

A TURN-ON?
BUT I NEVER IMAGINED...
MY DESIRE FOR YOU WOULD GROW INTO SOMETHING MORE
YOU'RE NOT MIZUHO KAZUMITSU! YOU'RE JUST HIS SON!
BUT I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF!

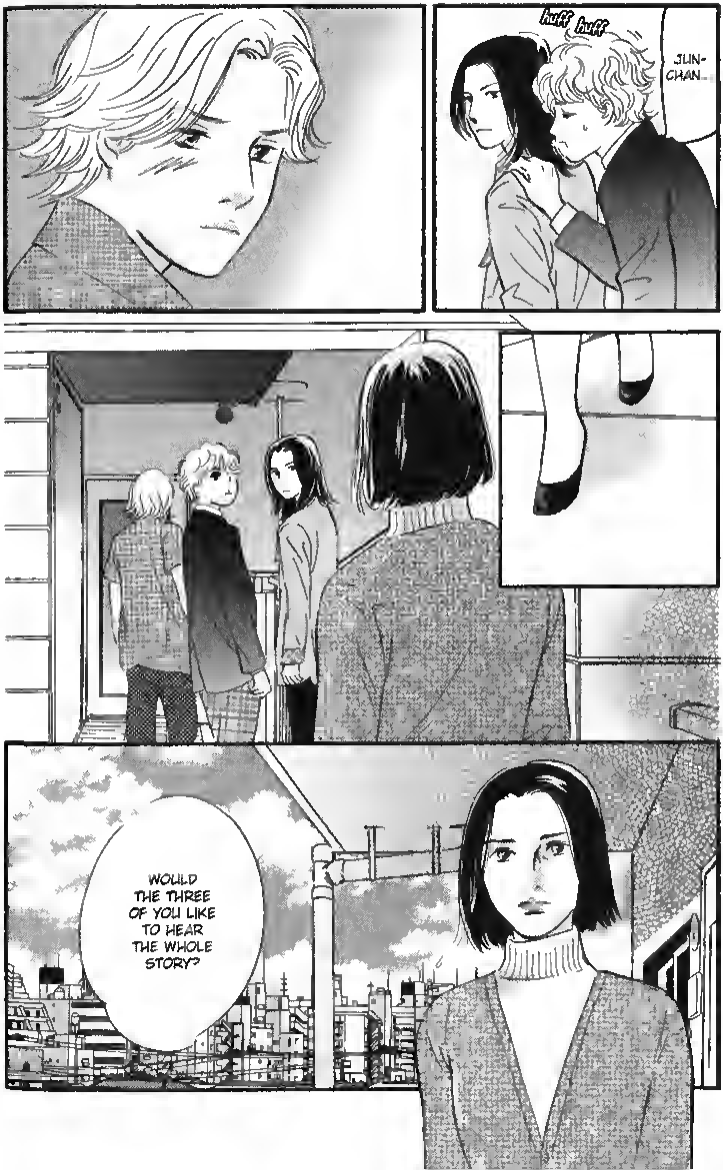
...I THINK I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU!
HIKARU...
HOW HIKARU IS GETTING ON WITHOUT ME
I WONDER...

WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE...
...WE'D TAKE THE THREE OF YOU TO HOSPITAL TO VISIT HIM.
I WONDER HOW HE IS GETTING ON NOW.
WHO?
ASHINUMA NOZOMI


ASHINUMA NOZOMI?!
BECAUSE THE THREE OF YOU
ARE THE SONS OF ASHINUMA NOZOMI

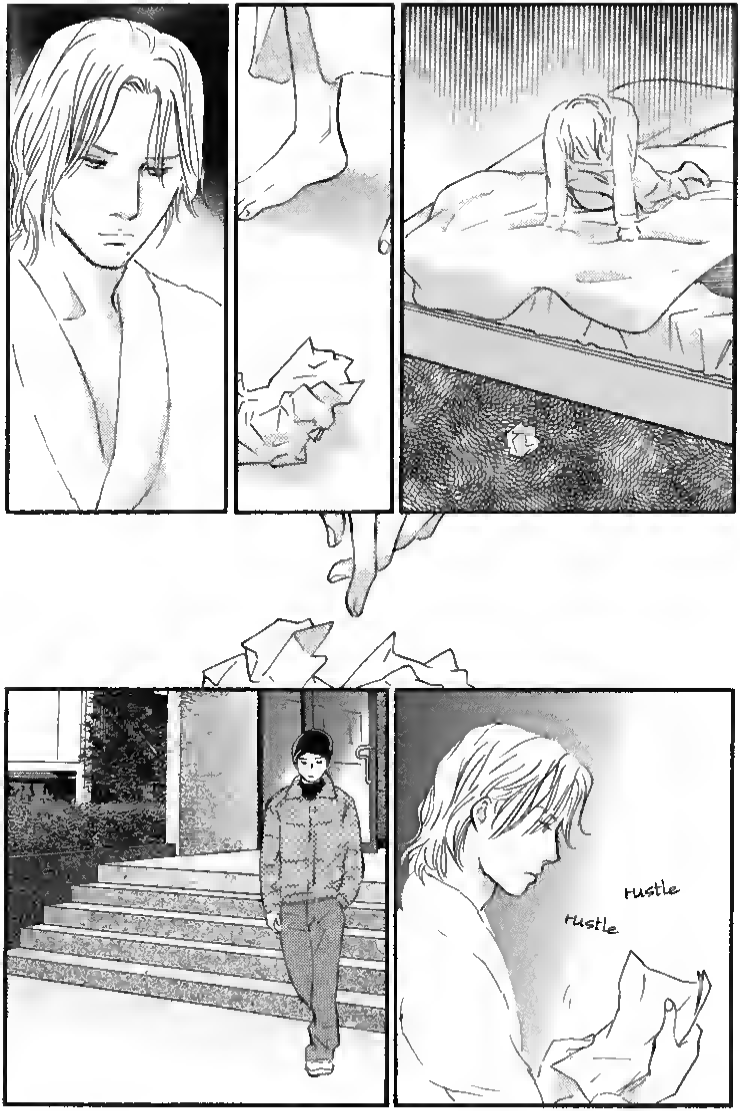
YOU'RE LYING!
DID YOU KNOW ALL ALONG, JUN-CHAN?
MY MOTHER TOLD ME.
BUT SHE WARNED ME NEVER TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT.
.....
HEY!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO AFTER HIM.
DASH!

GET BACK HERE, SATOU YUU!
DON'T CALL ME BY MY FULL NAME!
IT MEANS NOTHING TO ME!

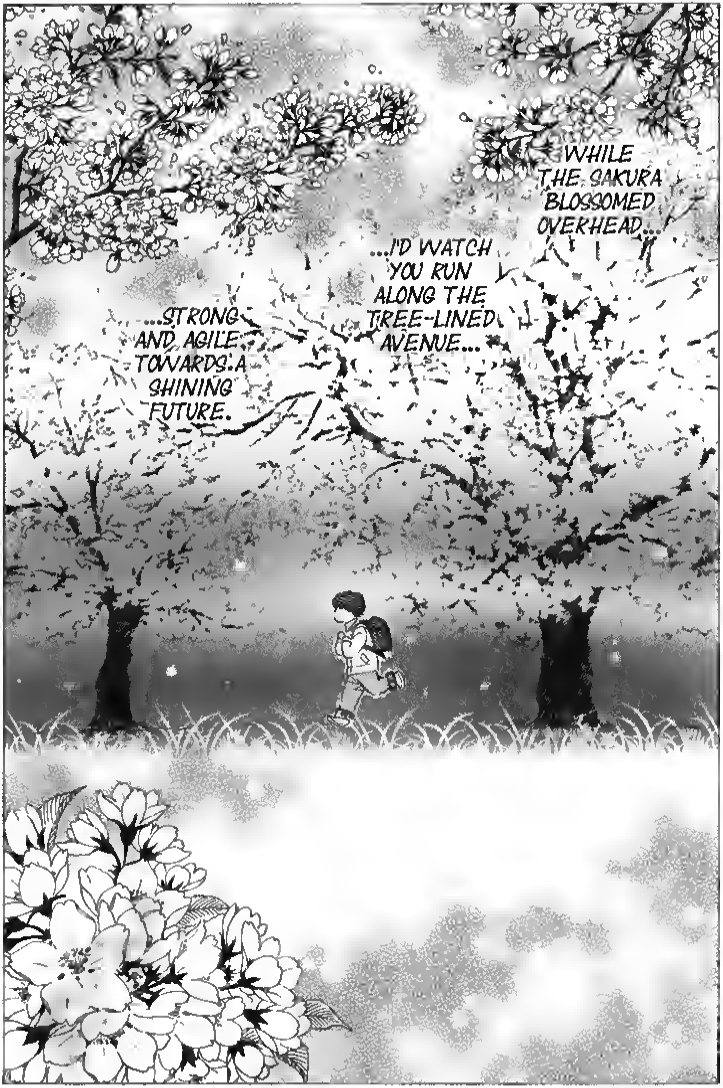

huff huff
JIN-CHAN...
WOULD THE THREE OF YOU LIKE TO HEAR THE WHOLE STORY?

...WHO ARE THE REAL SONS OF MIZUHO KAZUMITSU?
IS SOMEONE GOING TO TELL US...
NO.
THEN WHY...

WHEN HIKARU IS HERE I'LL TELL YOU
THE EXPLANATION IS QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY
SO WHEN I BEGIN, I ASK ONLY THAT YOU LISTEN WITHOUT INTERRUPTING ME


rustle
rustle

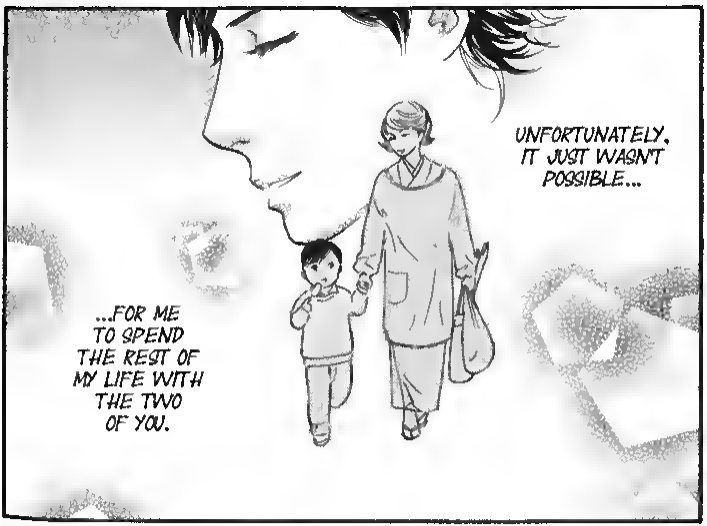
DEAR HIKARU,
NOW AND THEN...
... I WOULD TAKE A WALK ALONG THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE.
YOU AND YOUR MOTHER PROBABLY HAD NO IDEA I WAS THERE.


WHILE THE SAKURA BLOSSOMED OVERHEAD...
...I'D WATCH YOU RUN ALONG THE TREE-LINED AVENUE...
...STRONG AND AGILE TOWARDS A SHINING FUTURE.

YOU WERE SO FULL OF ENERGY THAT DAY... BUT I COULDN'T RUN BESIDE YOU...
...BECAUSE I MADE A PROMISE TO YOUR MOTHER...
...THAT IF I EVER CAME OUT AND LIVED ACCORDING TO MY TRUE NATURE, I WOULD NEVER DRAG YOU INTO IT.

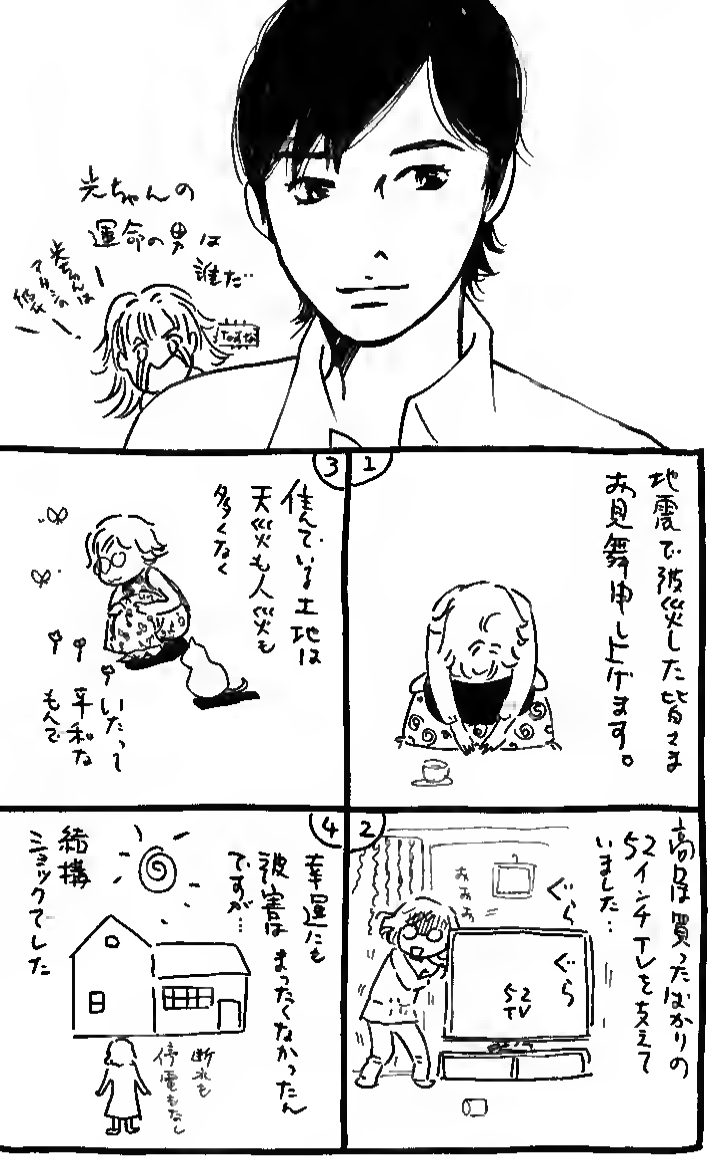
HIKARU...
BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW...
...ALTHOUGH YOU ARE VERY SPECIAL TO ME...
...THERE IS SOMEONE ELSE WHO HAS A HOLD ON MY HEART.

I LOVE YOU AND YOUR MOTHER VERY MUCH.
...YOU ARE VERY DEAR TO ME.


UNFORTUNATELY, IT JUST WASN'T POSSIBLE...
...FOR ME TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH THE TWO OF YOU.

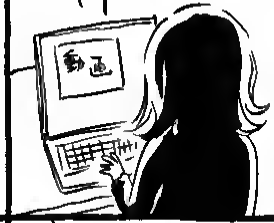
あ・と・が・き

NOTE Apologies for not translating the afterword due to time constraints. Handwritten kanji is not easy to work on, especially if you are a half-baked translator


光ちゃんの運命の男は誰だ…
光ちゃんはアタシの彼女ー
1
地震で被災した皆さまお見舞い申し上げます。
2
高月は買ったばかりの52インチテレビを抱えていました…
ぐらぐら
52TV
3
住んでいる土地は天災も人災も多くなく
平和なもんだったー
4
幸運にも被害はまったくなかったんですが…
断水も停電もなし
結構ミラクルでした

1

ところで
最近の萌えは
相変らず
赤ン坊と
シェイチョウ
氏



変りばえ
なくて
すいません

2

なぜか
一年に一度
新生児ちゃんを
抱っこできる機会に
恵まれるわたし
今年も期待

3

毎度
台湾にも
行ったりできてる

今月に行ったけど
6月にも行くよ
シェイに会いに
台湾にいない時が
多いけど
また会いに!!

4

そんなわけで
元気です

ご心配
おかけして
すいません
です〜

今年は着物着れてません〜
そんなこんなで夏になっちゃったよ〜
『なないろ』6巻お買い上げ
ありがとうございます〜
1
いよいよ佐瀬です〜
2
歌の中まっ白エンディング考えるのは苦手だよ
(でも楽しみにしてるね)
そういえば完結を前にして担当さんが変りました〜
3
想像
24才ピチピチギャル(死語)
ミニ
下田さん長い間お世話になりました〜
4
うろ覚え
十年以上のおつき合いで3回くらいしか会っていないため

■この本を読んでのご意見、ご感想を
編集部までお寄せください。

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キャラ編集部気付「ななひかり⑥」係

CHARA COMICS

ななひかり⑥

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■初出一覧

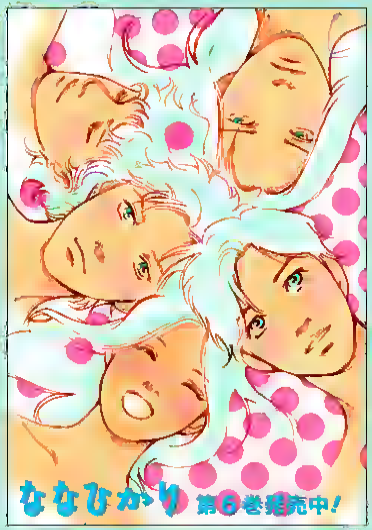
［ななひかり⑥］

contact 21
Chara 12月号（'10）
contact 22
Chara 2月号（'11）
contact 23
Chara 4月号（'11）
contact 24
Chara 6月号（'11）

［あとがき］

描き下ろし

Chara COMICS



NANAHIKARI

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